

Hafa Adai!

Santos: Transparency is one of IPI's big weaknesses. **PAGE 3**  
The Marianas tops wahoo fishing tournament. **PAGE 6**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 49

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2020

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## Man takes hostage at gunpoint



Police cars and an ambulance gather at this place in Afetnas where a hostage-taking incident happened yesterday afternoon.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

In an attempt to avoid arrest, a man held a woman at gunpoint yesterday afternoon in Afetnas.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the man was still holding the woman hostage as of 5:50pm yesterday and refused to surrender to authorities. Police said the victim is

the man's girlfriend.

The suspect reportedly walked from his residence in Afetnas to a relative's house in San Antonio at around 3:50pm and barricaded himself and his hostage inside the home while over 50 local and federal officers stood watch.

Although Pangelinan did not disclose who the suspect

**See HOSTAGE on Page 4**



### COMMUNITY GARDEN

The first community garden in the CNMI, called the Susupe Community Garden, breaks ground last Saturday, with a number of children from the village helping plant seeds.

IVA MAURIN

**Story on Page 8**

### DUE TO ARREST OF LAWYER ON EVE OF TRIAL

## Ataligs' jury trial postponed anew

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona postponed yesterday the jury trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and

his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, for one week due to the arrest Monday afternoon of Efraim

**See TRIAL on Page 4**

## Health screenings required to enter CHC

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

As a precautionary measure,

those entering the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan will undergo a brief health screening for COVID-19 prior

to entering the hospital's five entry points.

The Commonwealth Health-

**See HEALTH on Page 4**

### INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Spotty sick leave policies or inadequate health insurance coverage leave many vulnerable.

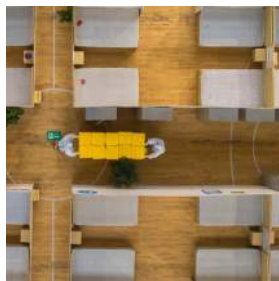
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### NATION

The cruise ship forced to idle for days off the California coast arrives in port.

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### ASIA

President Xi Jinping visited China's virus epicenter Tuesday for the first time.

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## 2020 NMI DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

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# Local



Winners of the Public School System's Digital Learning Day pose for a picture following the awarding last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Over 10K join Digital Learning Day

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Over 10,000 students participated in the CNMI Public School System's Instructional Technology and Distance Education Program's annual Digital Learning Day last week that also recognized five for using technology tools to tell how technology is helping them learn and grow.

According to Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology, this year's competition was open to 10,000-plus students for a chance to win several prizes and five were chosen as champions.

The five selected champions of the 2020 Digital Learning day were Anthony Deleon Guerrero, and Geelanan Deleon of William S. Reyes Elementary School, Jasmine Coleen Yalung of Sinapalo Elementary School, Jaedi L. Celis of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Katherine Magat from Marianas High School.

"The student tech products were exquisite, showing a high degree of technology integration and creativity. It was brilliant to behold. Every year we look forward to the Digital Learning Day

activities across the district. There have been so many wonderful uses of technology, and our amazing teachers continue to innovate as they integrate," he said.

He emphasized that the point is to use technology not to supplant the curriculum but to enhance it, making learning more engaging and fun.

Lorraine Catienza, Distance Education Program manager, said that Digital Learning Day is an opportunity to celebrate and showcase innovative learning and how technology is used in classrooms.

"Each week, there seems to be a new technology tool or mobile app that pops up to support learning and teaching in this digital age," she said.

Digital Learning Day promotes the effective use of modern-day tools to improve the learning experience in K-12 public schools. The competition coincides with schools throughout the CNMI showcasing innovative uses of technology.

The competition was among several activities in celebration of the National Digital Learning Day that highlights the innovative uses of technology for learning.

## Torres: Overstaying tourist looks forward to seeing mom in China

It has been a very difficult time for Xinzhou Ren, the 20-year-old overstaying Chinese tourist who was convicted of lying to federal authorities and was sentenced to four days of time-served, but his lawyer says the defendant is looking forward to returning home to China.

"We felt that the [U.S.] government's concern about respect for the law was well taken," said Robert T. Torres, adding that the court considered Ren's age and the facts of the case and dispensed the sentence that it thought was appropriate.

At the sentencing hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed Ren on one year of supervised release, directed him to report to immigration authorities for deportation, and pay \$100 in court costs.

With the conviction, Ren will no longer be able to stay in the CNMI, Torres said in an interview Monday afternoon.

Torres recommended a

sentence of 30 to 60 days of imprisonment. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, recommended a sentence of six months in prison.

U.S. Probation recommended a time-served sentence.

Manglona noted that Ren is young, has no prior criminal case, and volunteered to surrender to start serving his prison term. Manglona said that imposing more prison time on Ren would not necessarily deter others.

Manglona said she hopes that Ren would return to his country of origin and become law-abiding.

Before the sentence was handed down, the defendant, through an interpreter, apologized to the court and prosecution for what he did.

The tearful Ren narrated to the court, among other things, how he ended up on Saipan, how he was embarrassed by his actions, and worry about his mother, whom he misses.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

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# Santos: Transparency is one of IPI's big weaknesses

By IVA MAURIN  
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REPORTER

If Macau, the mecca of casino gambling in Asia, doesn't allow tax write-offs, the CNMI should do the same, according to Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Alvaro Santos.

"That was the position of the whole commission from the beginning, that to allow write-off is not in the best interest of the Commonwealth. It should not be allowed because the CNMI government will be losing money every year big time," he said during Monday's Senate Cannabis and Gaming Committee meeting on Capital Hill.

Santos argued that allowing casino write-offs is a huge leak for the CNMI government. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is the CNMI's lone casino licensee.

"It is like a safety net for IPI, and a huge leak for the CNMI government, when you allow write-offs in a casino industry. How it works, when I say safety net for IPI, is because, either way, IPI benefits. Whether they collect or not collect, they benefit. That's why I call it a safety net," he said.

Santos also disclosed that

IPI is currently having difficulties collecting debts from its patrons.

"Nowadays, many of you may be aware, IPI is having an extremely hard time collecting debts from its patrons. The other sticky part about this also is that it is the Hong Kong office that collects the receivables [or] debts owed by patrons," he added.

He pointed out that the CNMI has no involvement, and that they just receive information from the Hong Kong office, "whatever the Hong Kong office decides what information to give the CNMI office."

Santos is concerned that, under such condition, only Hong Kong knows how much the actual collection is, and implied, through an example, that the chief financial officer on the island has no way to verify the authenticity of collection reports coming from Hong Kong.

"IPI CNMI is at the mercy of Hong Kong IPI for information, and the casino commission is in the dark all the time," he said. "Transparency is one of their very big weakness, and that is one of the most contentious area for the commission that we have in the past six years,

not getting the right information. And if they give us [the information], often-times they give us what they want to give us."

The commissioner also said

that in the casino industry, casino operators use all kinds of financial strategies to avoid paying taxes or to minimize the paying of taxes.

During the meeting, the

Senate Committee endorsed the passage of House Bill 21-11, HS1, the bill that gives the casino commission more authority to regulate the casino industry, with

amendments.

The Senate struck off the tax write-off proponent of the bill following the introduction and passage of H.B. 21-62 in the House of Representatives, which intends to take care of the tax write-off clause in H.B. 21-11.


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# BOE to hold special meeting at MHS today

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Board of Education is set to meet for a special board meeting this afternoon at Marianas High School to discuss the filing of an injunction against the CNMI government.

All members of the BOE, including those who oppose the injunction, will meet with Public School System staff at 4:30pm this afternoon to address the matter.

PSS personnel will be given the chance to comment on the injunction and air their concerns on the fiscal

year 2020 budget.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada earlier opposed the injunction, but has since changed his mind and has promised to authorize it.

Board chair Janice Tenorio earlier said she intends to revisit the idea of filing the injunction while

members who agreed to it will reaffirm the decision.

Tenorio said she still disagrees with her colleagues. "From the beginning, I didn't agree with the injunction. I feel there are other alternatives, other avenues we can go by. We've been working closely with the government, the Executive Branch, and the secretary of Finance regarding the transfer of funds. I want to go back and work

with our government. It's a war we're getting into when we should all be one," she said.

Three of the five members of BOE voted to file the injunction against the government to enforce the Supreme Court's recent opinion in favor of PSS.

Tenorio and BOE vice chair Herman Atalig voted no, while Marylou Ada, Andrew Orsini, and Phillip Mendiola-Long voted yes.

## Parties in Hillbroom lawsuit talk about settlement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom and the parties in his lawsuit against his two former lawyers and former trustee are now talking about settling the case.

At a status conference yesterday, Theodore Frank, counsel for defendant Barry J. Israel, informed U.S.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that Israel and Hillbroom will be filing a motion to dismiss the case with prejudice. That means Israel and Hillbroom can no longer re-file the case.

Rachel Dimitruk, counsel for Hillbroom, confirmed Frank's statement about the dismissal.

Hillbroom is suing Israel, David J.

Lujan, and Keith Waibel over alleged mismanagement of approximately \$90 million that he inherited from his father, Larry Lee Hillblom, a co-founder and former owner of DHL Worldwide Express.

Waibel is the former trustee of Hillbroom's assets.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged Lujan and Israel, together with

Waibel, conspired in 2001 to wrongfully increase their contingency fee when the estate of Hillblom was undergoing probate.

Lujan and Israel have filed counter-claims against Waibel. Waibel in turn, also filed counterclaims against Lujan and Israel.

According to the minutes of yesterday's status conference, Lujan informed the court that no settlement has been reached between him and Hillbroom, as confirmed by Hillbroom's counsel. Frank also confirmed it.

Waibel said Nelson Werner, co-counsel for Hillbroom, would send a draft settlement agreement to him (Waibel). Werner confirmed it.

Lujan requested for a continuance

to give the parties more time. All parties did not object.

Manglona set another status conference for April 9 at 8:30am.

Hillbroom, a Palauan, is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom. The three other children are Jellian Cuartero, a Filipino; Mercedita Feliciano, a Filipino; and Nguyen Be Lory, a Vietnamese.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on a flight from Pagan Island to Saipan on May 21, 1995, leaving behind an estate worth approximately \$550 million. The bodies of the pilot and a business partner were found, but Hillblom's body was never recovered.

## HEALTH

From Page 1

care Corp., which runs CHC, said those five entry points are in front of the gift shop, hemodialysis, family care clinic, the administration building, and the emergency room.

According to Commonwealth Health Care Corp. spokesperson Zoe Travis, the health screening will include just having a few questions asked about your health and recent travel as you walk through the door.

These questions will allow the CHC's emergency preparedness team to continue to monitor the health of the community.

It is advised that visitors should arrive earlier at the hospital to account for the time needed for the screening.

At the airport, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has ordered the purchase of a thermal body scanner worth \$35,000 to detect the body temperature of passengers arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. There are still no updates about when the scanner will

arrive, but CPA is hoping that it will arrive as soon as possible.

Although, the full body thermal body scanner won't stop the coronavirus from sneaking its way into the CNMI, it's another precautionary measure that the CNMI is taking to prevent the entry of the virus.

The scanner just basically detects those who have elevated body temperatures that are not within the normal range. Since one of the symptoms of COVID-19 infection is a fever, the thermal scanner will be able to detect that.



Two representatives of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. are now ready to assist patrons who enter the facility by giving them a health screening as a precautionary measure.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## HOSTAGE

From Page 1

of the hostage-taking was, social media posts said that the man is Gordon Aldan Castro, 31, who is notorious for taking hostages in the past in order to evade police.

Pangelinan said that police were executing an arrest warrant for Castro at his residence in Afetnas, but he shot a few rounds in the air to scare off police.

The warrant of arrest for Castro is for attempted first-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful discharge of a firearm, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, use of a weapon in the furtherance of a crime of violence, and disturbing the peace.

At around 12:50pm, Pangelinan said Castro fired a few rounds of his gun to scare off police. Negotiators tried to talk down Castro and get him to surrender but failed.

Neighboring residents were immediately evacuated by police as precautionary measure.

One of Castro's neighbors, Dagger Diaz, said that he heard what sounded like fireworks earlier in the day, around 12pm, so he paid it no mind until his husband told him police were surrounding their area.

"I wasn't sure if it was a gunshot or fireworks. I was just told by my husband that there were cops and shots," he said.

Diaz was not aware whether there were any individuals with Castro in his residence when police came to

carry out the arrest warrant.

Diaz said their neighborhood is known for violent criminal activity because of the number of meth dealers in the area.

"There's a lot of meth dealers here. I just want to let them know to get away from here, stop doing this. We need to help each other and love each other and this is not what we should be doing to one another on the islands," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Castro held his family hostage for seven hours at his house in Afetnas in 2015.

Castro allegedly threatened his common-law-wife with a knife if police wouldn't leave while confining her and their two children in the house.

## TRIAL

From Page 1

Atalig's lawyer, David G. Banes.

As this developed, Efraim Atalig asked the court to appoint a new counsel for him.

Manglona moved the trial to March 18 at 8:30am, but stated she will reset the trial to 10:30am if there will be Rota and Tinian jurors to allow them time to travel to the court.

Manglona said she will then recess after jury selection and reconvene the trial on April 6.

Banes and co-counsel Cong Nie appeared in court yesterday.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona informed the parties that she had an in-chamber meeting with the parties' counsel yesterday.

Manglona said with the consent of assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, who is counsel for the U.S. government, she had a separate in-chamber meeting with the Ataligs regarding Banes' status.

Manglona provided a summary of the discussions about their in-chamber meeting and informed the parties that Efraim Atalig asked for a new counsel.

Manglona said she inquired at the meeting about the possibility of a potential conflict of interest regarding the Department of Public Safety officers involved in Monday's arrest of Banes.

After further discussions with parties, the judge concluded that the appointment of new counsel is not warranted.

Manglona informed Efraim Atalig that if he would like to make the motion for new counsel on the record, he needs to file the motion with the reason.

Banes requested for a short continuance of the trial. O'Malley requested a waiver from Efraim Atalig, stating that he has full faith and confidence in Banes as his attorney, should Banes continue representing him.

O'Malley did not object to a short continuance.

Banes stated that he advised his client, Efraim Atalig, to seek new counsel due to his (Banes) current situation. Banes, however, informed the court that if there is a possibility of a short continuance, Efraim Atalig would not have these concerns. Banes later asked Manglona to begin the trial in the District Court case after the CNMI case. O'Malley agreed with Banes' request.

O'Malley, Banes, and Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Evelyn Atalig, told the court that they all agreed to continue the jury trial.

Manglona then talked with the 67 prospective jurors and instructed them to return for jury selection on Wednesday, March 18.

The trial has been postponed several times already due to many reasons. The trial was scheduled to supposed to start yesterday.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from sources that police arrested Banes for allegedly fleeing the scene after hitting another car with his vehicle along Beach Road in Susupe.

Sources said police arrested the lawyer for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol and other charges.

No one was injured in the accident. Banes was subsequently released from the Department of Corrections.

When asked for comments about the allegations surrounding his arrest, Banes stated yesterday, "Not true at all."

As of yesterday, the Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about Banes' arrest.

In the federal case, the Ataligs are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and false statement.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General charged Efraim Atalig and the seven co-defendants with misconduct in public office. The bench trial in this case against Efraim Atalig and four co-defendants will be on March 20.



## Process in electing delegates for Saturday's Democratic Caucus

The March 14 presidential caucus will be the first step in the NMI's participation in this process. At the caucus, Democrats will elect delegates to attend the National Convention according to Presidential Preference group.

The caucus will be held on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses to be held at the Northern Marianas College on Tinian—Room C, (VTC Room) and Rota—Room B2 (VTC Room).

Doors open at 5pm, with doors closing for the caucuses to begin promptly at 6pm.

Here's a short summary of how this process works: The presidential nominee of the Democratic Party will be nominated at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this July 13-16, 2020.

Each state and territory, including the CNMI, is allotted a certain number of pledged delegates who can cast a vote at that convention. The CNMI is allotted six pledged delegates and five automatic delegates—

meaning the six delegates are pledged to support a particular candidate at the convention. A pledged delegate can also be "uncommitted"—and therefore not bound to support any particular candidate at the convention.

Under the new rules adopted at the 2018 Summer Meeting of the DNC, our five automatic delegates do not have a vote on the first ballot in the nominating process—unless a presidential candidate has already secured enough pledged delegates in the primary and caucus process to secure the nomination outright.

During this Saturday's caucus, after all of the votes from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for presidential preference have been counted, that raw number of votes will be translated into the number of pledged delegates.

Out of the CNMI's total of six pledged delegates, the total will be awarded to a certain Presidential Preference (or Uncommitted) group. Importantly, by rule a Presidential Preference must get at least 15% of the total vote in order to be awarded at least one delegate.

After we do this "translation" into delegates, we will announce the delegates allotted to each pre-presidential preference. At that time we'll know who "won" our caucus: Will it be Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders?

After the party has awarded the delegates between the Presidential Preference groups, each Presidential Preference group on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will get together via conference call and vote for the individual persons that will be the delegates that go to the National Democratic Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This will be done via ballot.

Candidates for delegate have to file a declaration of their candidacy with the NMI Democratic Party to get their name on the ballot. We may hear from these candidates at the caucus on why they think they should be elected. Importantly, caucus participants will only be able to vote for candidates for a delegate who is running to represent the Presidential Preference that they voted for on their ballot. Then, after that election, each Presi-

dential Preference group will then elect one alternate delegate to the national convention. This will be done on another ballot. The alternate will accompany the delegation and represent the CNMI and his or her Presidential Preference in the Pledged Delegate's absence.

Importantly, the Democratic National Committee believes in non-discrimination and equal representation based on gender. The CNMI has been given certain targets for the demographic makeup of our

total delegation, and is required to send a delegation balanced between men and women. So, there may be limits in the participants choices for whom they can vote for in the Delegate and Alternate elections that will be announced later.

NMI registered voters who would like to participate and register as members of the party are welcome and encouraged to attend. All NMI registered voters and persons who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov 3, 2020, on Saipan, Tinian,

and Rota will be able to visit the designated caucus voting sites at the Taga Ballroom, NMC Tinian, and NMC Rota and cast votes for their Democratic Presidential Candidate of Choice. Facilities and media services provided for this event is a paid service provided by the Northern Marianas College for the political organization. No political endorsement by NMC is inferred from this caucus event.

Visit [www.nmidems.org](http://www.nmidems.org) for more information and don't miss the opportunity to participate in democracy and have a voice in choosing the next President of the United States. (PR)

## Judge accepts motion to grant 'use immunity' to Atalig co-defendants

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja has accepted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to grant "use immunity" to four of seven co-defendants of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig in the CNMI case.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley told *Saipan Tribune* Monday that Naraja approved their motion to "use immunity."

"Use immunity" refers to protection given the witness from having their testimony used against them.

Bradley earlier stated that once the court approves the "use immunity" offer, witnesses can't refuse to testify by invoking their constitutional privilege against self-incrimination.

The four co-defendants are Dean Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, Joseph Manglona, and Dennis Mendiola. They have not resolved their cases.

The remaining three co-defendants—Vanessa Charf-

auros, Magdalena Mesngon, and Dexter Apatang—have already disposed of their cases by plea agreement.

When asked about the OAG's next step, Bradley said Monday they will monitor the federal trial of Efraim Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, which will start soon.

He said they will also await the bench trial of Efraim Atalig and co-defendants in the CNMI case. The bench trial will be on March 20.

The Ataligs are being

charged jointly with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

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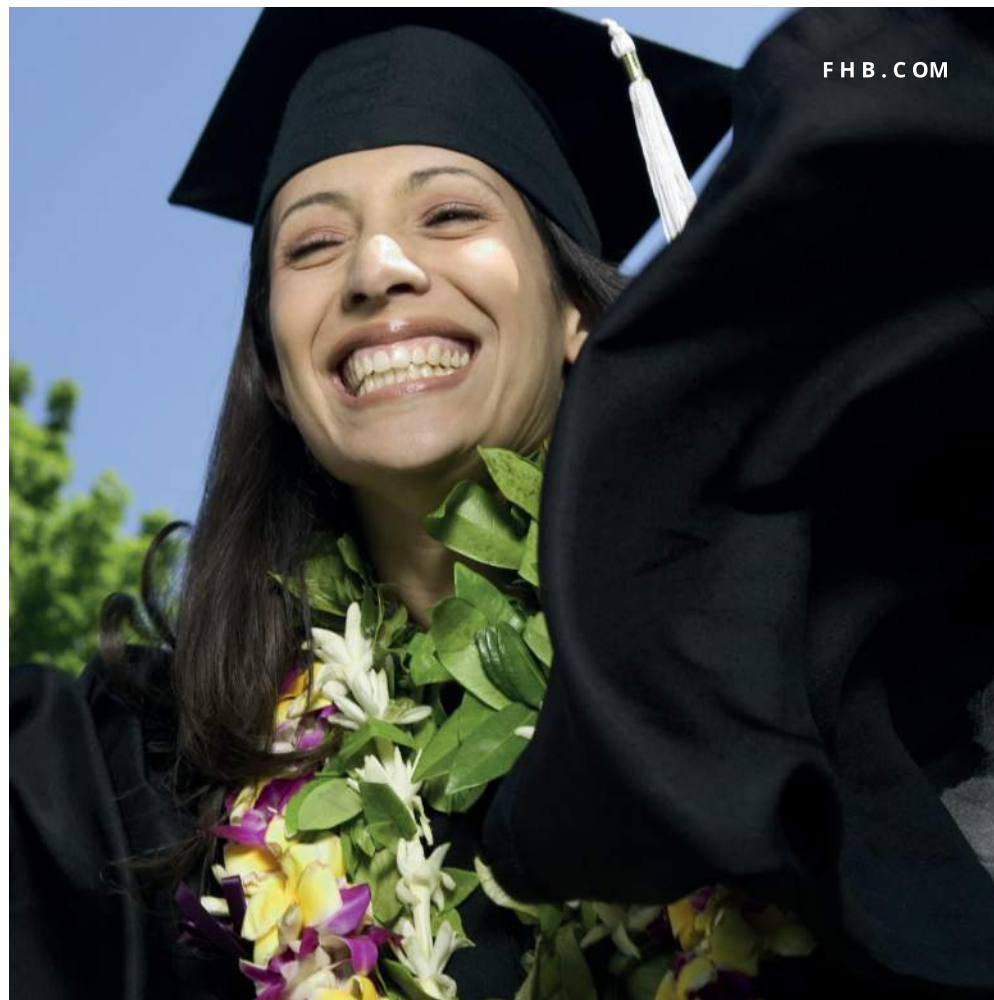
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# The Marianas tops wahoo fishing tournament

A team simply named The Marianas was the biggest winner in last Saturday's 1st Wahoo in the Marianas fishing tournament organized by the "Tasi to Table" Youth Fishing Club.

The Marianas caught a 33.60-lb wahoo to claim the \$2,000 first place prize during awards ceremony held later that day at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Aside from the monster wahoo, the crew of The Marianas also reeled in two more wahoos weighing 19.20 lbs and 16.60 lbs.

Another team called Sea

Infection came in second with their 32.70-lb catch and won \$1,500. In third place was the Rainbow Runners, which caught an 18.70-lbs wahoo and went home with \$1,000. Coming in fourth, was Team Victoria which won the \$500 prize with their 17.70-lb wahoo.

A total of 51 boats registered to take part in the fishing tournament that was organized by the "Tasi to Table" Youth Fishing Club with support from the Saipan Fisherman Association.

Wayne Pangelinan, SFA spokesperson, wants to thank their sponsors for being present with their support for the program.

"We congratulate our win-

ners captain Jess Muna and crew, captain Chris Pangelinan and crew, and captain Ray Aldan and crew. We are thankful that all boaters returned safely and we will see

you all next year," he said.

The main sponsors of the fishing tournament were IT&E and Mobil Oil Marianas. Other sponsors are Roil Soil Clothing and Bank

of Saipan.

"Tasi to Table" Youth Fishing Club is a SFA youth program that teaches the islands' youth the rudiments of sustainable fishing. *(Justine Nauta)*

## JC Tenorio Enterprises donates \$5,000 to NMC



J.C. Tenorio Enterprises donates \$5,000 in cash and in-kind to the Northern Marianas College Foundation. The donation was made as part of the 16th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2020. **NMC**

As part of its commitment to expanding educational opportunities in the Marianas, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises has donated \$5,000 in cash and in-kind to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

The donation was made

as part of the 16th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2020. The funds raised from the event will benefit the college's recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu, which

destroyed 85% of the college's classrooms and facilities.

"We are proud of the longstanding partnership that our company has with the Northern Marianas College," said J.C. Tenorio vice president Roman "Bo" Palacios. "We

will continue to support the college and its efforts to advance higher education."

"For many, many years, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises has supported NMC and its mission to provide students with quality education and services," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico. "We are grateful for their longstanding support."

The 16th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on the east course of the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format. *(NMC)*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-005**

SUBMISSION DATE: April 8, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"CNMI Government Long Range  
Twenty-Year Highway Master Plan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD ON **March 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

**QUESTIONS** MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 26, 2020.** THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

[www.dcrmm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrmm.gov.mp)

**Public Notice**

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**DATE: March 11, 2020**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey regarding the use of Expendable Bathymographs (XBTs) in the CNMI. Coast Survey will be deploying approximately 45 XBTs in order to make accurate temperature and depth assessments from April – September 2020.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following link:  
<https://dcrmm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/Marianas-2020-CNMI-CZMA-Addendum-2-for-XBT-3.9.2020.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [fedcon@dcrmm.gov.mp](mailto:fedcon@dcrmm.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on March 11, 2020 and ending on March 26, 2020. We look forward to your input.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-20-014**

**LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS  
SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA  
ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 9, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address [william.gilmore@cucgov.org](mailto:william.gilmore@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY BOYER SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

**ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms  
(Chalan Kiya) Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5750

*Attorney for Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE** Civil Action No. 11-0197  
**MATTER** **NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION**  
**OF THE** **ON:**  
**ESTATE OF:**

**LILY A. HOCOG,** FROM THE COURT'S ORDER GRANTING  
**Deceased,** PETITIONER/CLAIMANT MARIANAS  
PUBLIC LAND TRUST'S MOTION TO  
AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATRIX TO  
EXECUTE DEED TO DECEDENT'S MOTHER  
) AND ASSUME LOAN SECURED BY REAL  
) PROPERTY MORTGAGE TO SATISFY  
) MPLT'S CLAIM AGAINST THE ESTATE;  
) and  
) (2) SECOND PETITION TO SELL REAL  
) PROPERTY SECURED BY MORTGAGE TO  
) SATISFY MPLT'S CLAIM IN PROBATE  
) PROCEEDING ABSENT A FORECLOSURE  
) ACTION; AND/OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE,  
) A WRIT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
) MORTGAGED PROPERTY

**TO: THE SURVIVING HEIRS OF LILY A. HOCOG,  
SPECIFICALLY LYNETTE H. MANGLOMA**

This Notice of Hearing is hereby served upon you by publication to notify you that the Court has set a hearing on the Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust's (1) Motion to Relieve the Parties from the Court's Order Granting Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust's Motion to Authorize Administratrix to Execute Deed to Decedent's Mother and Assume Loan Secured by Real Property Mortgage to Satisfy MPLT's Claim Against the Estate; and (2) Second Petition to Sell Real Property Secured by Mortgage to Satisfy MPLT's Claim in Probate Proceeding Absent a Foreclosure Action; and/or, in the Alternative, a Writ Authorizing the Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-captioned matter for **March 26, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** Any opposition is due on or before **March 20, 2020.** Any reply is due on or before **March 25, 2020.** All parties are ordered to appear.

Dated this 9th day of March 2020.

/s/  
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



# Senate seeks bank relief for borrowers affected by austerity

By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Senate has passed a resolution appealing to banks and lending institutions to provide relief to borrowers affected by austerity.

Its proponent, Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said that Senate Resolution 21-10 basically conveys the Senate's sentiment for lending institutions to consider coming up with a mechanism to help al-

leviate the financial burdens their borrowers are facing during this time of crisis.

"It's a respectful request to the loaning institutions, both private and government, to take heed of the current situation with the work-hour reductions and to...see what kind of reprieve they can [give] their customers," the Senate vice president said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier asked banks to consider providing a three-month grace

period for all loans, mortgages, promissory notes, and other monetary obligations owed by CNMI residents, as the Commonwealth experiences an economic downturn due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

"I do understand that they do have guidelines, but this situation is very serious. I would like to say that the others are also just as serious, but this one, it's hard to quantify, hard to tell to what

extent or how far it's going to go," he added.

On Tinian, all public agency employees are affected by the 16-hour work-hour cut, he said. "It's not a very good taste for our community, especially the ones with credits, so everyone is affected."

For the past several weeks, the CNMI has seen a massive loss in revenue following the suspension of and cancellation of flights fueled by the COVID-19 scare, which has caused

a significant drop in the number of tourists on the islands.

Tourism is the sole driver of the CNMI economy, hence the drastic impact the outbreak is causing the Commonwealth.

Hofschneider expressed hope that the crisis is re-

solved in the next couple of months so the CNMI can bounce back. "It is our hope that the vaccine is identified so...that we can get the confidence [of] the flying public [in] flying back to the CNMI and to the region."

## Classical pianist Roman Rudnysky to perform in free concerts at Hyatt

Internationally renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnysky is back on Saipan for another visit and the Friends of the Arts will be sponsoring two special concerts during his visit—an opportunity to listen to live classical music played by a master pianist.

Rudnysky will be performing two special "Magic Spring Music Concerts" on March 14 and 20 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. These concerts of classical music are open to the public for free. Voluntary sponsoring donations will be accepted. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm. Reservations can be made by contacting Frank Gibson by phone or text at 287-7476 or, preferably, by email at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The two programs will include differing selections each night from classical masters

such as Chopin, Gershwin, Beethoven, Ravel, Liszt, Bach and others. The award-winning Marianas High School Glee Club will also entertain during intermission with a selection of songs.

Rudnysky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him all over the world. A graduate of the Julliard School in New York, he also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy. Since 1972, Rudnysky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recognition of his concert activities.



Roman Rudnysky will be performing two special "Magic Spring Music Concerts" on March 14 and 20 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, in addition to being "artist-in-residence" at two Australian

universities.

During his two-week visit to Saipan, he will travel to many of the CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with the students. This is Rudnysky's 11th trip to the CNMI. He travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors, is hosting Rudnysky's stay. Those sponsors include Hyatt Regency Saipan, Bridge Capitol LLC, IT&E, Dr. Susan Fishman-Tudor, Hertz Car Rental, KLCarr, Brabu Pharmacy, Dental Care, Triple J Saipan, Everest Kitchen Restaurant, Toothworks Dental Clinic, PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Variety, Paradise Dental Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, JET Realty and J's Restaurant, Yaong Corporation, TransAmerica Saipan, Paradise Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Green Meadows School, Thompson Law Office, and HR Support, CNMI. (PR)

## Rotary to host first Easter egg hunt



Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu, left, announces the club's upcoming events at their weekly meetings at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. At right is Sonya Dancoe, the Rotary Club's president-elect. KRIZEL TUAZON

Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting its first Rotary Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 beginning 10am at the Sugar King Park.

Registrations can be picked up at the McDonald's Saipan headquarters in Dandan, Megabyte Saipan, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., and from any Rotarian. Only children ages 2-10 years old can participate in the event and registration will start on March 16.

Club president Marcia Ayuyu said the Rotary is looking for volunteers for the event because of the large area

where the event will be held. "Any help will be greatly appreciated. We will color the eggs, hide them, and just have a good time!"

She also announced the start of the Rotary Sign Project that will be built across the Modern Office Supply in Oleai. This project is assumed to be built by board members themselves with some help from a construction manager.

"This will be a great project for all of us...to put our hands on this project and put our stamp," she said. (Krizel Tuazon)



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios jointly signed a proclamation Monday designating March as CNMI Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month at the Governor's Office conference room. KRIZEL TUAZON

Colorectal cancer is the fifth most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer disease for men and women in the United States.

That sobering fact is the reason behind efforts to raise awareness of the disease and explains why Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios jointly signed a proclamation Monday designating March as CNMI Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Month at the Governor's Office conference room.

"We urge all men and women in the CNMI to discuss a preventive and screening program with their health care provider and become aware that they are at risk of getting colorectal cancer. We encourage all our citizens, government agencies, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and other groups to join in activities that will increase the awareness and pre-

vention of colorectal cancer," said colorectal cancer survivor Edgar Pangelinan, who read the proclamation.

One of the major events to spread cancer awareness and raise funds to fight the disease in the CNMI is the Marianas March Against Cancer, which was established by the Commonwealth Cancer Association in 2001.

Before the MMAC, the event was called "Relay for Life" which was under the

national level that meant all funds raised during the event in the CNMI did not stay here. But now, all funds raised from the MMAC events stays and goes to awareness, education, and, most especially, services to cancer patients in the CNMI.

One of the leading teams that consistently participates in the MMAC is Team Bodig, which was present at Monday's proclamation signing. In a short interview Monday,

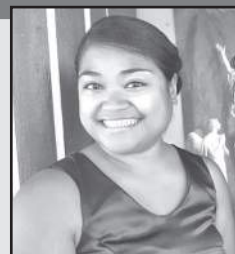
Team Bodig captain Bridgette Camacho said, "I am torn between what's going on with the economy, but cancer patients never stop. They never

stop their treatment despite the weather, despite their finances and everything. They don't stop the fight." (Krizel Tuazon)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Tracy Valenzuela and may you have many more blessings and years to come! Always stay positive and smile! We love you! Greetings come from your one and only Babe, kids and your family, especially your fave sister, Kate! J

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





# Bringing community farmers back

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As the CNMI government ratchets up efforts to prepare everyone for the economic stresses of the novel coronavirus outbreak, some members of the community are rallying to bring back the focus on farming with the launch of the Susupe Community Garden last Saturday.

The forces behind this effort—the Board of Parole, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services, Saipan Mayor's Office, Miss Earth NMI, and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan)—came together to help create the first community garden project in the CNMI.

"This is really good timing," Sablan said. "As everybody knows, we're coming up on some very challenging economic times. All our families are going to be affected and this is a really good chance for us to go back to our roots, encouraging people to grow their own food in the community garden and in their homes."

DLNR taught many children from the village on the proper way to plant seeds. One of the children, Kyra, said they are helping to protect the environment and to plant and have food.

Aside from being an avenue to raise food for residents in the area, the community garden is also intended to be the pilot project that would entice people, the youth included, to start doing more backyard gardening in their own homes.



The Board of Parole, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services, Saipan Mayor's Office, Rep. Tina Sablan, and a number of children from the village came together last Saturday to start planting crops on the Susupe Community Garden, the first in the CNMI.

IVA MAURIN

## Empowering farmers

"I want to bring back our farmers," said Norma B. Carayaoan, who works at the DLNR's Division of Agriculture-Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, providing outreach, education, and training for farmers to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops on the island.

"We're looking at critical things happening right now, and bringing back the farm life is the number one thing because right now, we don't even know where we stand with the freight or shipping of our produce from the [United] States, so we got to look into farming," Carayaoan added.

Since fiscal year 2019, the Division of Agriculture, through its five-member advisory panel, has been subgranting over \$300,000 to eligible applicants interested to farm, harvest, and market their specialty crops within the CNMI. Specialty crops are de-

fined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Projects eligible for funding are community gardening, adopt-a-farm project, student farmer projects, "back to our roots," school gardening, and data collection and marketing. In the past, projects on high tunnels, backyard gardening, school gardens, and hydroponics have been funded.

Carayaoan has been outreaching the program at the Nutrition Assistance Program office, and is currently working on a project with the *man'amko*. Those who are also interested may call 256-3318 or 256-3319, or visit the Agriculture office in Kagman.

## Promoting a safe and healthy community

Through Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho, parolees are given the opportunity to



get reintegrated to the society and to give back to the community through the community garden project.

One of the parolees, Ray King, expressed appreciation for having been given the opportunity to establish a place for the community to start their own agricultural garden.

"The place that we have there [in Susupe] is the beginning station for the community to get the sprout and to develop their own garden...so instead of going to the market to buy vegetables and fruits, they have their own store in the backyard. It's a nice way to start to give back to the community," King said.

Camacho stressed that the community garden is a perfect area for the people to get together, work together, converse, and build a bond that could help people go through hard times.

"Here on the island, we have two major resources, water and land. We have to make use of it. Now that we have this impact, if there is no air, water transportation to bring the commodities, what are we going to put on the dining table? With no tourists coming in, [we need to] make sure that we still survive. Let's start building relationships with our neighbors," he added.

## Agroforestry and stewardship

"Agroforestry is sustainable," NMC-CREES extension agent Arnold Route stressed.

With news of people panic buying for food and goods around the world due to the coronavirus scare, some residents are realizing that there should be less dependency on external factors, and that food sustainability within the island is key.

Emphasizing food security, Route cited the other advantages of agroforestry: that it can be done in small areas such as homestead lots, it provides organic matter and nutrients, it provides soil with moisture, and it provides for wildlife habitat, with birds even helping with propagation.

DLNR Forest Stewardship program manager Pedro Tudela appealed to the community to protect and take care of the plants. Those who want to start a backyard garden can get the plants for free at CNMI Forestry.

"Come up to CNMI Forestry if you are interested. There is no money to pay, it is free. Everything is free," Tudela said. "Gardening is the work of a lifetime. You never finish. I hope that while so many people are out there smelling the flowers, someone is taking the time to plant some."

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 11, 1999

### Bill increases Rota, Tinian share of CIP funds

As expected, the Senate yesterday overhauled a legislation appropriating close to \$23 million in capital improvement project funds to increase allocation to Rota and Tinian as well as to fast-track a new prison on the heels of the hostage incident by inmates at the existing facility. Senators voted unanimously on the revised measure following an agreement to alter the plan passed nearly a month ago by the House of Representatives. It heads back to the lower chamber to vote on the amendment. They also agreed to waive local procurement regulations to allow a sole-source contract for the proposed new prison in a bid to hasten construction of the \$10 million project.

### 6 inmates charged, flown to Guam

Six prisoners who participated in Tuesday's 14-hour hostage drama led by William Sablan were sent to Guam yesterday after they were charged and arraigned for a federal offense. Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms filed the charges before the US District Court. Aside from Sablan, the other prisoners were Vicente Aldan Jr., Jeffrey Celis, Ryan Babauta, Edwin Blas and Arcel Busto. They were among the eight inmates who

bolted out from the Division of Corrections last month. Ingram said they will be back on March 18 for the trial. According to Dave Wood and Gregory Baka from the U.S. Attorney's Office, it is considered a federal offense if individuals who were previously convicted of felony are caught in the possession of a firearm.

March 11, 2005

### DPS launches 'Clean Sweep' in Garapan

The Department of Public Safety is attempting to put a stop to the nagging problem of overly aggressive solicitations on Saipan's main tourist area through "Operation: Clean Sweep," which it kicked off last night. The program, according to DPS spokesman Eric David, aims to stop loitering, illegal parking, and illegal taxi operations in Garapan and other areas by having lawmen scour the streets of Garapan from 6pm to 2am. David said the anti-loitering initiative is in line with the newly enacted Public Law 14-50, which amended Article 1, Division 3, Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new section which states that "loitering outside a business establishment on a public thoroughfare for the purpose of luring, enticing or soliciting persons for commercial gain is prohibited."

### 'Red Toyota Tacoma seen at area where body was found'

A red, heavily tinted Toyota Tacoma was seen at the area where the body of a Chinese female was found last Thursday morning, according to witnesses interviewed by the police soon after the discovery of the body. Four local youths told police during investigation that they were walking along the beach when they

came upon the body. They then ran to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Office, said Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David. As they were running away from the body, the four young locals noticed a red pickup truck at the site—a heavily tinted Toyota Tacoma.

March 11, 2006

### Japan space adventure firm eyes the NMI

A Japanese space adventure company is looking at Saipan and Tinian as possible flight stations. The company, Space Japan, through a Tokyo-based law firm, wrote the Commonwealth Ports Authority last month to explore the possibility of the CNMI as a base. "Space Japan needs Saipan and the airport of Tinian as an airport for a space experience flight. ...Is establishment in the Saipan airport possible? What license is required?" reads a portion of the Feb. 8, 2006 letter from the Hayashi Law Office to CPA.

### Nutrition Month Fair attracts 400 participants

The Nutrition Month Fair held at Koblerville Sports Complex yesterday morning gathered over 400 community members who took part in activities geared toward healthier living in the CNMI. The fair started at 8am and ended at 12noon. According to Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program officer Pat Coleman, there were participants who arrived as early as 7am yesterday. On behalf of the Nutrition Month committee, Coleman thanked the families who showed interest in learning more about healthier living in the Commonwealth. She said she and the committee were overwhelmed by the cooperation of the community.





COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53  
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp



## RFP20 – RED004

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 24, 2020

#### “LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN”

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M <sup>2</sup>
<i>(West of Main Road - Oceanside)</i>		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance	30,738
003 A 26	Vacant Land	109,003
<b>Group of Properties West of Main Road:</b>		<b>374,041</b>
<i>(East of Main Road - Inland)</i>		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
<b>*NOTE: The swimming pool property will be available at the end of the Year 2021.</b>		
003 A 18	18 Hole Golf Course	905,784
008 A 01	Club - House	30,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
<b>Group of Properties East of Main Road:</b>		<b>1,075,180</b>
<b>Aggregate Area in Square Meters:</b>		<b>1,449,221</b>



The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email.

A non-refundable administrative processing fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: **Department of Public Lands**. Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP20-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI, SAIPAN**”. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the following address shown below. Submission deadline is April 24, 2020.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands  
P.O. Box 500380  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53  
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755  
Email: [dpl@dpl.gov.mp](mailto:dpl@dpl.gov.mp)

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a “Question and Answer” format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary  
Department of Public Lands

(For more photos, please visit DPL website at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp))



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 49

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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### EDITORIAL

## A deal, but no peace yet, in Afghanistan

**O**n Feb. 29, U.S. and Taliban envoys signed an agreement.

Only time will tell if it's actually a peace deal. There's uncertainty because America's accord with the nihilistic, violent group that's bedeviled Afghanistan for decades seemed mostly focused not on bringing peace to a nation that's endured decades of war, but on the shared American and Taliban objective of withdrawing U.S. troops.

The Taliban's motivation is evident: It looks to increase its malevolent presence beyond the broad portion of Afghanistan it already controls.

And the motivation has been evident ever since then-candidate Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. Indeed, a drawdown will likely be a feature in his 2020 re-election effort.

That is if the pact holds. By Wednesday, just five days after the deal was signed, the Taliban had carried out at least 76 attacks spanning 24 provinces, sparking a retaliatory U.S. airstrike. The "reduction-in-violence period is over," a Taliban spokesman said after the brief respite from the carnage.

Pentagon officials seem resigned to that fact. "This is going to be a long, windy, bumpy road," Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper said on Monday. He was referring to the accord, but could have been referencing a generation of warfare that's seen about 800,000 U.S. troops serve in Afghanistan.

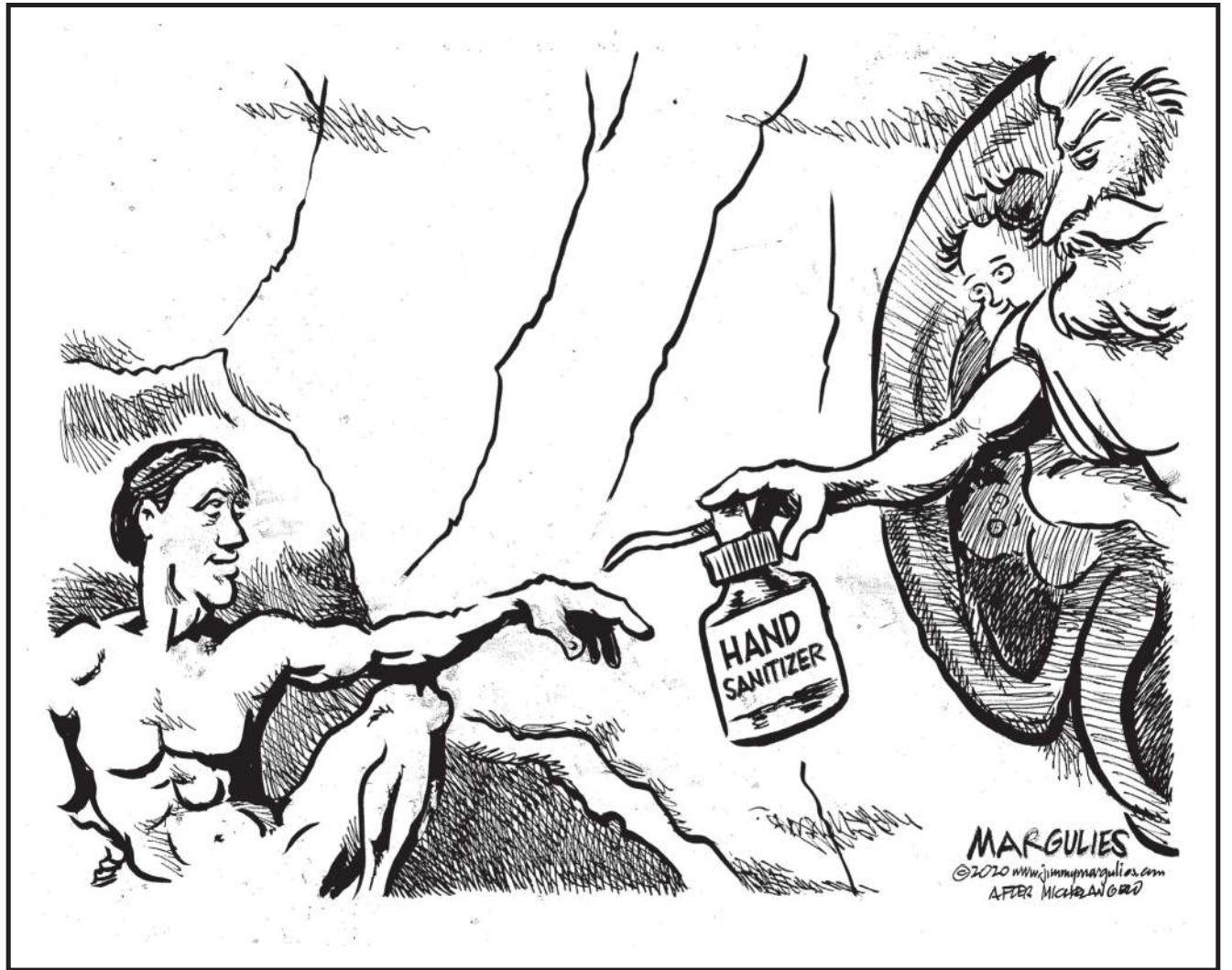
The initial mission was to topple the Taliban, which sheltered al-Qaida as it planned its 9/11 attack. But over time that clarity of purpose clouded so completely that even Pentagon officials had a hard time identifying, let alone justifying, the mission (as the Washington Post's "Afghanistan Papers" so vividly exposed).

During the Obama-era "surge," about 100,000 U.S. troops were in Afghanistan — backed, it should never be forgotten, by thousands of forces from NATO nations who had America's back when the U.S. became the first and only nation to ever invoke Article 5.

Currently, there about 12,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and the deal calls for a reduction of about 5,000 within 135 days if the Taliban meet certain conditions. The eventual objective is to withdraw all U.S. troops over the next 14 months. But that timetable is dependent on diplomatic progress. And yet the talks between the Taliban and the Afghan central government that were slated to start on Tuesday are already in dispute over a negotiated prisoner swap, which the Taliban insist happen immediately, a condition the Afghan central government is rightly resisting.

These and other conditions fall far short of the original U.S. objectives, however. After an initial rout, the Taliban regrouped and mounted a ferocious insurgency that's killed scores of Afghans and been among the factors resulting in nearly 3,000 allied casualties. The result was a stalemate that has not been solved militarily, leading the U.S. to sign the deal without the guarantees of peace between the Taliban and an Afghan government led by President Ashraf

See **AFGHANISTAN** on Next Page



## Let them eat pie charts!

**P**erhaps you've noticed: Democracy has forced you to make very tough decisions in campaign 2020. And all the usual news sources you once relied upon to make things clearer have let you down.

You've largely been left to forage on your own, from what started out as a couple dozen presidential wannabes promising you a world of grand goals. Among the grandest were the ones you cared about most—because they involved the future security of your health care coverage. And the actual cost you never really knew of Bernie Sanders' sweeping democratic socialism reforms.

Now, after the stunning Super Tuesday results limited the Democratic options to just two—Sanders and Joe Biden—you mainly need to find a clear way of comparing what their two decidedly different reform programs will mean to America's challenging needs and already soaring deficit. And especially you want to know whether Sanders' costly "Medicare for All" plan or Biden's way more modest public coverage option to the existing government plan will keep your family secure. Especially if President Donald Trump's Republican-pushed court challenges succeed—and deep-six your present Obama health care that guarantees coverage of preexisting conditions.

(Spoiler alert: Keep reading; after we recite your 21st century Info Age problems, you'll actually discover some helpful news at last—in the form of investigative, in-depth punditry.)

At present, your all-news cable TV channels no longer give you in-depth news in those reported, scripted, carefully edited and packaged video pieces you once got on broadcast TV news. Now cable news mainly gives you a Washington version of the old "Hollywood Squares"—a news screen filled with squares, each containing a talking head. And that's all they do—just talk. They mix facts and opinions, an unscripted, unedited, stream of punditry. Cable news networks may as well rename their news shows—welcome to the "Washington Squares!"

What a waste, this wasteland. On days when there are no huge breaking news events to cover, what cable news gives you is really like old-time radio news, with screens showing you people doing what they did on radio: Just talking. Cable TV doesn't use its visual capability to give you the graphics that can soar or plummet as the numbers change. And we've especially missed the public service journalism we could be having if TV entered a new era of computerized graphics to report cost and care changes in competing health care proposals.

So I set out this week to provide you with the sort of in-depth or investigative journalism that, frankly, we always just called

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

*Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*



"journalism." Then, on Thursday morning, I tuned to MSNBC's "Morning Joe" and saw that a former Washington news colleague had beaten me to the scoop. Yet again. (Decades ago, Steve Rattner was a New York Times Washington correspondent when I was Newsday's Washington bureau chief. Then he left journalism for the world of New York finance, and was President Obama's point man in rescuing the beleaguered U.S. auto industry. Now he's back in the straddle again, writing Times op-ed pieces, opining on "Morning Joe.") On Thursday he impressively filled our screens with visuals—charts of motionless bars and pies that clearly revealed the huge cost differences we need to know in candidates' health care plans.

Sanders' Medicare for All would virtually double the federal government's current health care spending, which, over 10 years, amounts to 22.2% of America's gross domestic product. Sanders' plan would be 43.1% of the GDP. Elizabeth Warren's, 34.8% of GDP. And Biden's, just 24.3% of GDP—barely more than America now spends. Rattner's sources were the Sanders' campaign, Washington's Progressive Policy Institute think tank and the Congressional Budget Office. (Several hours later, Warren ended her presidential campaign—the final casualty of the stunning Super Tuesday primaries that resuscitated Biden's nearly moribund campaign and rocketed him into front-runner status.)

Sanders' spending pie chart showed that the Vermont senator proposed domestic spending totaling a whopping \$57 trillion—with his \$30 trillion Medicare for All plan being half of his democratic socialism pie. The rest included Sanders' Green New Deal, free college tuition and wiping out student loans. All impressive goals (see also: GOALS).

But finally, the Sanders' revenue pie chart shows that while he lists revenue for individual taxes, corporate taxes and other revenue, almost half of Sanders' revenue pie—\$27.2 trillion—is missing. If that is ever actually added to America's deficit, it will produce a national debt "KA-CHING!" heard 'round the world.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Pot coronavirus

**I**sagun coronavirus pipinu! I gofes hinatme hanum `nai chinema` regulat na hinaguñ. I man-amku` mas man-tinatme yan sinapet nu este na peste. U fan dimalas mas ayu i mangai asuntu hinemlu`.

Kulan sagun biblia este na biahe. Namanman para u doku` gi tautau gi lugat `nai taya` este na chenut. Ha afuetsas ma-utut kumarera gi tod u lugat `nai gaige i peste.

Lokue`, taya amofia este na chenut. I inetnun mediku ma-aligau dulogña i pesti lau tinaka` kase dos años estake para umasoda` amteña. Adahe i man-amku` miyu piot i man-malañgu.

### Karera

Un` lemlem tautau hu akantehan ñaihon fina`pus galaide`ta yan haf` biahiña `nai ha diñgu i puettu. U felis i karera pat u dimalas gi halum pagyun tasi?

Haf` estau kinalamten tautau-ta siha diariamente pa`gu? Man-felis linala` niha gi hilu` suffisiente yan disiente na prebension familia?

Na ti magahet na guaha 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble pa`gu?

Maseha man-silensiu guine na puntu hoñgeyu` na madime-moria haf` i mapadedese pa`gu na chinatsagan halum guma`.

Lamegai fotmat na kuestion siha debi uma-oppe ni manma-elihe.

Megai suetdun popble magagana pa`gu. Haf` satbasion miyu fuera de in` letke konbiñiente i asuntu?

Petsonatmente, ti kontentu-yu` gi haf` lini`ehu ni kulan masotta gi kaprichoña. Guaha planun haf` para u fan ma-adelanta? Pat mapunu` “not yet, already?”

### Tanu`

Gi tutuhun negosium i Covenant gi 1972, malimite dueñun tanu` Marianas solu gi natibu. Guihe na tiempu esta lamegai na Japones mangaige guine. Un` ratutu ha` makalamut tanu` Marianas `an ti malimite gi natibu.

Man-mikepble `nai finagcha`e man-chatsaga i tautau pot tini-laikan sisteman gobietnamentu guihe na tiempu.

Pot proteksion i Attikulu Dose na mapega kumu areglu para 25 años na tiempu. Esta i tautau-ta makomprende haf` impot-tansian yan sustansian tanu` niha.

Siha pa`gu u dinisponse kumu dueñun tanu` niha. Ti siña na para u gagaige ha` i publiku kulan patte dueñu gi tanu` kada sudadanu. Un` ñega direchun sudadanu!

Ha setbe mauleg haf` intensioña i Attikulu Dose gi tautau-ta siha. Mehnalum na intension yan propiu na disision i mana` guaha proteksion tautau-ta gi tanu` niha gi tutuhun i nuebu na sisteman gobietnamentu.

Poresu, taya` esta kampu para setmun saiantes karisu ni pumo` lu na ha tuñgo` ña disposision propiadat otru ke i dueñu mismu!

### Liñguahimu

I finu` Chamoru dos patte gi un` sahyan `nai mau`udai: konbet-sasion yan matuge`. Debi i natibu na u lagse` gi tod u atmos banda.

Tihu komprende haf` na maletke finana`guen matuge` na finu` Chamoru. Huñgan, gai atburotu mapegan palabra gi dinanche na

sentensia. Kada unu debi una`e animu kumetuñgu tod u atmos bandan liñguahita.

Hu hassu na i uttimu leksion gi finu` Chamoru `nai estabayu` gi segundu gradu `nai ma-introduse madiletran linguahita. Ti makontinua ayu na leksion para uma-asegura na man-eyag famaguon natibu manmañgge` gi liñguahen niha.

Hu disidi mañgge` pot liñguahihu maseha tinaka` mas ke dos años para bai` eyag muna` fan adanche mapegan palabra gi sentensia. Gi ti maput na eskalera, para un` eyag mañgge` debi un` fañgge`. `An siña un` tuge` pues konfitmasion na un` tuñgu` liñguahimu.

Dañkulu na na`mamahlau i fatsu hau gi matuge` na finu` Chamorro. Debi un` lagse` gi katkuet usun finu` natibu.

### Disareglu

Chenut coronavirus ha estotba relacion nasion siha gi bandan bisnis piot materiat yan trastes ni diariu na usun tod u. Deste ne-ñikanu` esta papet komun megai man-hokug gi tenda siha. An-imu pa`gu makubre manu` `nai kulan guaha finatsu.

Mientras guaha pugas de hemunus papet komun. Mauleg ta ta`lun chumage saibog `agun haya ni mana matmus lechen niyug. Enfin, mattu gi man-atlibes

siha inenkatgun materiat pot megai empleau man-malañgu ginen este na sagu. Adumididi` ha bira siha tatte operasion faktoria gi enteru señguñgu elmundu.

### Kanta

Estaba un` bisnietu yan dandaña ukulele gi fihonhu `nai sige ha kanta Lullaby and Good Night. Un` kanta ni man-mafana`gue ham gi eskuela antes.

## Mass panic may be worse than the coronavirus itself

By DR. ABDU SHARKAWY

INSIDESOURCES.COM

**T**he coronavirus is here. But fear not.

Mass panic is also here. Fear.

I'm a doctor and an infectious diseases specialist. I've been at this for more than 20 years seeing sick patients on a daily basis. I have worked in inner city hospitals and in the poorest slums of Africa.

HIV-AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis, SARS, measles, shingles, whooping cough, diphtheria ... there is little I haven't been exposed to in my profession. And with notable exception of SARS, very little has left me feeling vulnerable, overwhelmed or downright scared.

I am not scared of COVID-19. I am concerned about the implications of a novel infectious agent that has spread the world over and continues to find new footholds in different soil. I am rightly concerned for the welfare of those who are elderly, in frail health or disenfranchised who stand to suffer mostly, and disproportionately, at the hands of this new scourge.

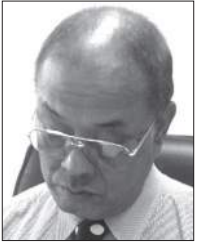
But I am not scared of COVID-19.

What I am scared about is the loss of reason and wave of fear that has induced the masses of society into a spellbinding spiral of panic, stockpiling obscene quantities of anything that could fill a bomb shelter adequately in a postapocalyptic world.

I am scared of the N95 masks that are stolen from hospitals and urgent care clinics where they are actually needed for frontline health care providers and instead are being donned in airports, malls and coffee lounges, perpetuating even more fear and suspicion of others. I am scared that our hospitals will be overwhelmed with anyone who thinks they “probably don't have it but may as well get checked out no matter what because you just never know ...” and those with heart failure, emphysema, pneumonia and strokes will pay the price

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

Hali`e na kulan tristeyu`. Hu esplika na guiya ayu na kanta i sessu antes in` kanta yan man-madispone na mañeluhu gi barandan hagas guma` gi Lali Fo.

Hu chule` dispues i ukulele ya hufanu`e mas yaben dandan yan kanta ni mauleg u eyag. Namagof sa` mitalentu na patgon yan mauleg lokue` bosña.

Siempre un` dia u danderu taimanu ha` si bihuña. Namagof i matala` gi talentoña. Hu promesa na un` dia bai fana`gue gumit-ala. Mitalentu.

### Inadahe

Sattun na eksisiun hinemlu` i mas fitme na manera para ta adahe hinemlo`ta diariamente. Ginagag yan mauleg na pinetsigen homlu` na eksisiu mas asegura gi inadahe hinemlu`.

Pot man-hahanau famaguon-ta para eskuela `nai man-entalu` otru famaguon mina` mauleg in` adahe ha`anen niha. Rikonose kau guaha tinituhun seña sinagu pot no un` diskuida hau.

for overfilled ER waiting rooms with only so many doctors and nurses to assess.

I am scared that travel restrictions will become so far reaching that weddings will be canceled, graduations missed and family reunions will not materialize. And well, even that big party called the Olympic Games ... that could be kyboshed, too.

Can you even imagine?

I'm scared those same epidemic fears will limit trade, harm partnerships in multiple sectors, business and otherwise, and ultimately culminate in a global recession.

But mostly, I'm scared about what message we are telling our kids when faced with a threat. Instead of reason, rationality, open-mindedness and altruism, we are telling them to panic, be fearful, suspicious, reactionary and self-interested.

COVID-19 is nowhere near over. It will be coming to a city, a hospital, a friend, even a family member near you at some point. Expect it. Stop waiting to be surprised further. The fact is the virus itself will not likely do much harm when it arrives. But our own behaviors and “fight for yourself above all else”

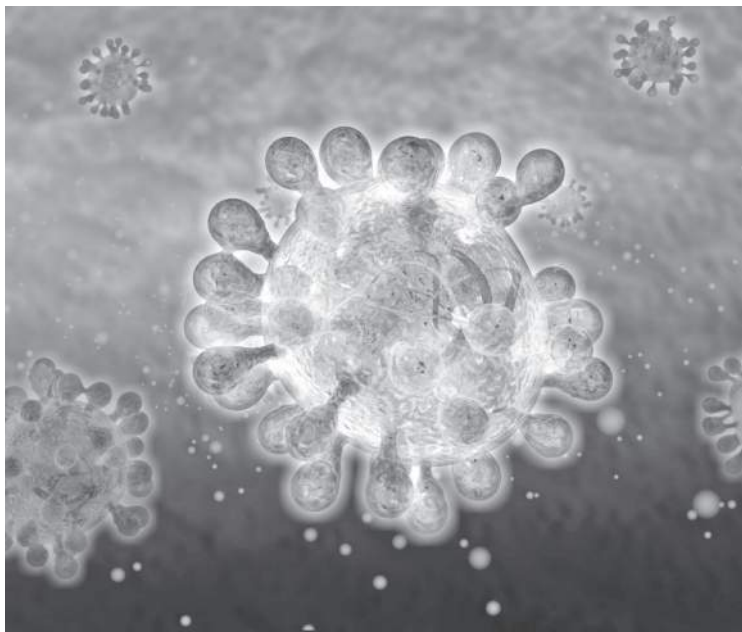
attitude could prove disastrous.

I implore you all. Temper fear with reason, panic with patience and uncertainty with education. We have an opportunity to learn a great deal about health hygiene and limiting the spread of innumerable transmissible diseases in our society. Let's meet this challenge together in the best spirit of compassion for others, patience, and above all, an unfailing effort to seek truth, facts and knowledge as opposed to conjecture, speculation and catastrophizing.

Facts, not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts.

Our children will thank us for it.

*Dr. Abdu Sharkawy is a doctor and an infectious disease specialist at the University of Toronto in Canada. This is adapted from an article he wrote and permitted InsideSources to distribute.*



## AFGHANISTAN

From Page 10

Ghani, who was recently reelected in a deeply disputed election.

Tragically, corruption has flourished and Afghan military preparation has languished despite extraordinary U.S. efforts. The geopolitical stakes of these failures have been high, of course, but the individual ones are even more profound — especially women and girls, who suffered terribly under the Taliban's cruel rule. A return to such conditions would be a betrayal of everything America claimed to be fighting for.

Strategic and tactical mistakes span the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations, although the biggest belong to former President George W. Bush, who turned his focus from Afghanistan toward Iraq.

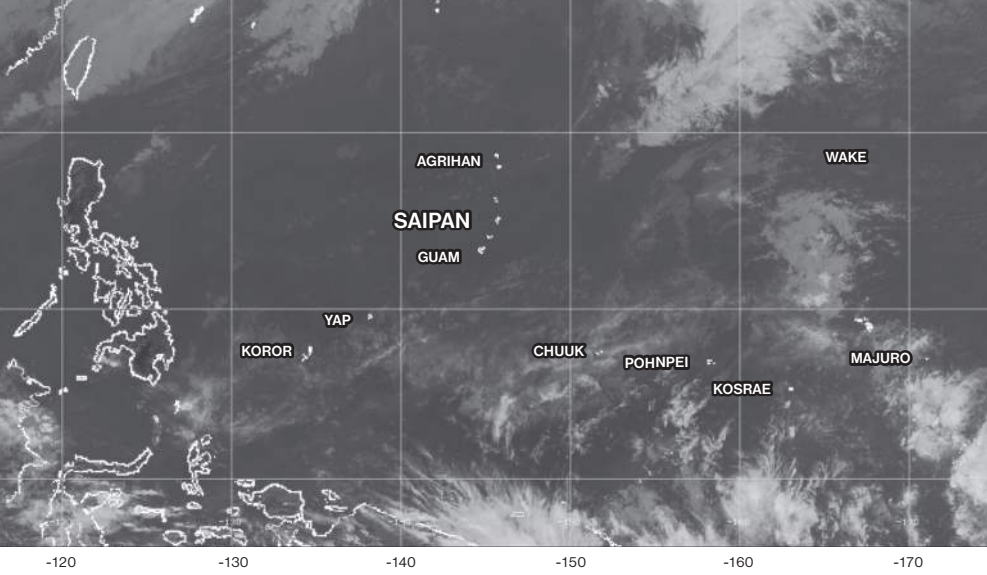
But another era and U.S. president evoke echoes. After Richard Nixon agreed to a peace deal, North Vietnam accomplished its mission of overrunning Saigon and the rest of South Vietnam. For Afghans' sake, and for the sake of all allied forces who fought so valiantly and sometimes died during America's longest war, we hope that this outcome is different.

(c)2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:20 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A very dry pattern continues to dominate across the region this morning. Only a few clouds are evident across the Marianas. Latest model guidance indicates this dry pattern will continue for at least the next few days. Models indicate a few showers moving through the region by Thursday, though little rainfall is expected during the next week. Both the GFS and ECMWF show around one quarter of an inch of rain over the next week or so. Gentle to moderate winds are expected to gradually increase over the next couple of days, becoming occasionally fresh Wednesday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	55° / 28°	
Hong Kong	Showers	75° / 70°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 67°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Manila	Sunny	91° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Miami	Windy	74° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	64° / 49°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°	
Paris	Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°	
Rome	Sunny	64° / 43°	
Salem	Showers	72° / 57°	
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 47°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	54° / 34°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.17	
9:04 AM	LOW TIDE	1.98	
3:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.41	
8:56 PM	LOW TIDE	2.01	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:37 AM	8:05 PM
Thursday	-	8:23 AM	9:05 PM
Friday	-	9:10 AM	10:05 PM
Saturday	-	9:58 AM	11:05 PM
Sunday	-	10:48 AM	-

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



Business

Spotty sick leave policies limit options for avoiding virus

**LONDON (AP)**—A barber in Beijing is supporting his wife and child by charging food and other expenses to a credit card while he waits for his employer’s shop to reopen. A waiter at a barbecue restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri, washes his hands more often and hopes for the best. A parcel delivery driver in Britain worries about getting sick from the people who sign for their packages.

While white collar workers trying to avoid contagion can work from home or call in sick if they experience symptoms of the virus, such precautions are not an options for the millions of waiters, delivery workers, cashiers, ride-hailing drivers, museum attendants and countless others who routinely come into contact with the public.

Their dilemma is compounded by spotty sick leave policies or inadequate health insurance coverage, which leave them vulnerable to the fast-spreading coronavirus that has already claimed thousands of lives and put them in a financially precarious position.

“The recommendations on what people should be doing to protect themselves really gives a sharp indication of the divide between white collar and blue collar workers,” said Shannon Liss-Reardon, a workers rights attorney in Boston. “Our social safety net is just not equipped at this moment to deal with a crisis like this, and it will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable low wage workers.”

While tech companies like Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft have implemented work-from-home policies, only 29% of U.S. workers have that option, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That means retail workers like Mendy Hughes must fend for themselves. The Walmart cashier in Malvern, Arkansas, serves hundreds of people a day and her big worry is what will happen to her income if she catches the virus or comes in contact with someone who’s had it and must self-quarantine for 14 days.

“If I can’t go to work, I could try to take a leave but it will be unpaid,” said Hughes, who earns \$11.60 an hour. “I don’t know what I would be doing about taking care of my family.”

Hughes, a diabetic and mother of four, gets 48 hours of sick leave a year but she fears it wouldn’t be nearly enough time to recover.

In the United States, about 27% of private sector workers don’t have access to paid sick leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some countries, like Britain, are looking into helping out its non-permanent workers.

There is no federal sick leave policy in the U.S., but 12 of the 50 states and Washington D.C. require employers to offer paid sick leave.

Some House and Senate Democrats have been pushing legislation that would require employers to allow workers to accrue seven days of paid sick leave and to provide an additional 14 days in the event of any public health emergency, including the current coronavirus crisis. President Donald Trump said he was seeking help for hourly-wage workers to ensure they’re “not going to miss a paycheck,” and he would outline the proposals Tuesday.

In Britain, parcel delivery driver Ed Cross worries about catching the virus from the machine he hands people who sign for their packages.

“People have coughed on their hand and then got hold of my machine and you sort of make a joke of it trying to point it out,” Cross, 53, said. “But yeah, it’s what we face daily.”

“We only have to go to the wrong house and we could catch it, as simple as that,” said Cross, who on a recent day handed packages to 110 people on his route in Whitby, northern England.

The British government last week made it easier to collect statutory sick pay and is working on changes to help millions of non-permanent workers like Cross who aren’t eligible for it. In a sign the industry is waking up to the problem, his parcel company, Hermes, announced a 1 million pound (\$1.3 million) fund to help couriers who need to self-isolate.

Uber, meanwhile, said it would compensate drivers and couriers for up to 14 days if they get sick or have to be quarantined.

The viral outbreak has revealed gaping holes in health care coverage at a time when people may need it most. Most European countries and Canada have universal healthcare systems, but the U.S. relies on a patchwork of public and private insurance. About 69% of private industry workers in the U.S. have access to healthcare benefits, but that drops to 43% of service workers. U.S. employers with 50 or more employees are required to offer health insurance. But the same protection isn’t provided to part-time workers or independent contractors.



In this March 5, 2020, photo, a waitress of the Chinese restaurant Hot Pot serves customers in London.

China food prices spike as anti-virus effort disrupts supply

**BEIJING (AP)**—China’s food prices jumped 21.4% over a year earlier in February as anti-virus efforts disrupted supplies, adding to pressure on communist leaders who are trying to revive economic activity.

Overall consumer prices rose 5.2% over a year ago, down from January’s eight-year high of 5.4% but well above the ruling Communist Party’s traditional annual target, government data showed Tuesday.

Pork prices, which have more than doubled over the past year due to an outbreak of African swine fever that disrupted supplies, rose by 9.3% compared with January. The government reported no year-on-year price increase.

The price of fresh vegetables rose 9.5% over a year ago.

The government has yet to announce this year’s inflation target, but in previous years it has tried to keep consumer price increases below 3%.

Food prices spiked after panic buying in January sparked by the suspension of most access to Wuhan, the city at the center of the coronavirus outbreak. The government announced a crackdown on hoarding and price gouging.

Travel and other controls disrupted shipments of food to crowded Chinese cities and animal feed to farmers. That left supermarket shelves temporarily depleted and depressed the flow of poultry and livestock to slaughterhouses.

The ruling party ordered local officials to speed supplies to markets.

The coronavirus hit as Chinese leaders were struggling to rebuild the country’s pork industry following the outbreak of African swine fever, which killed or prompted authorities to destroy more than 1 million animals. Farmers allowed herds to dwindle.

The government is promising farmers subsidies and other aid, but industry analysts say China’s pig herd won’t return to normal size until next year.

FOR WEST PACIFIC CUSTOMERS

BOH offers financial assistance programs

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Bank of Hawaii is offering financial assistance programs to help its West Pacific region customers who are facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 situation. The programs apply to existing loan clients in Guam, Saipan, and Palau.

“We are aware that many bank customers are facing personal challenges from COVID-19 and its impact on our West Pacific market, largely attributable to the sharp downturn in tourism,” said Peter Ho, chairman, president and CEO of Bank of Hawaii. “We recognize the hardship this is presenting and have representatives ready to work with individuals and assess their needs.”

The following assistance programs are effective March 10, 2020:

- **Loan forbearance program.** Affected customers may defer loan payments for up to three months for residential mortgages, home equity loans, and home equity lines in amortization.
- **Loan extension program.** Affected customers may extend other direct installment or indirect loans, such as personal loans or auto loans, for up to three months.

For more information and specific details on each of the programs, West Pacific region customers may visit their local branch to speak with a branch representative, or call Bank of Hawaii’s customer assistance line for Guam, Saipan and Palau: (671) 479-3700. Palau customers may also use an additional number: (680) 488-6975. **(PR)**

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P

2,746.56

-225.81

-7.60%

DOW

23,851.02

-2,013.78

-7.79%

NASDAQ

7,950.68

-624.94

-7.29%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.77	Russian Ruble	72.08
Australian Dollar	1.53	Singapore Dollar	1.39
British Pound	0.77	South Korean Won	1,172.00
Canadian Dollar	1.36	Swiss Franc	0.93
Chinese Yuan	6.81	Taiwan Dollar	29.43
Euro	0.88	Thailand Baht	31.38



# Nation

## Infected cruise ship unloads passengers in California

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—**The cruise ship forced to idle for days off the California coast because of a cluster of coronavirus cases aboard arrived in port Monday, and dozens of passengers began to leave for military bases where they would be quarantined or to return to their home countries.

The Grand Princess pulled into the Port of Oakland with more than 3,500 people aboard—21 confirmed to be infected with the new virus. Passengers lining the balconies waved and some left the cabins where they had been in isolation to go on deck.

As the ship sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge to enter the harbor, passenger Karen Schwartz Dever said “everyone was hollering and clapping.”

Twenty-three people who needed acute medical care had been taken off the ship by late Monday afternoon, but it was not clear how many of them had tested positive for the virus, said Shawn Boyd, a spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services.

Live TV footage showed at least one passenger, an older man wearing a face mask, climbing onto a stretcher and being lifted into the back of an ambulance. Officials have said the unloading will take up to



three days.

“Our intent is to basically disembark about half the passengers today. Everyone will be screened initially today,” said Robert Kadlec, assistant secretary of Health and Human Services Services.

Many of the nearly 240 Canadians on board left the ship

after the critically ill and stood outside two tents displaying Canadian flags. Canada and the UK were among the countries sending chartered flights to retrieve their citizens.

U.S. passengers will be flown or bused from the port—chosen for its proximity to an airport and a military

base—to bases in California, Texas and Georgia for testing and a 14-day quarantine. The ship is carrying people from 54 countries, and foreigners will be whisked home.

About 1,100 crew members, 19 of whom have tested positive for COVID-19, will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship, which will dock elsewhere after passengers are unloaded, California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said.

For most people, the new

coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China,

<sup>AP</sup>  
In this Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 file photo, passengers from the Caribbean Princess wait for ground transportation at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

In an effort to stop the virus from spreading, Italy will impose travel restrictions and other strict public health measures nationwide starting Tuesday. And a combination of coronavirus fears and plunging oil prices sent stocks on Wall Street plummeting Monday.

The virus has infected 600 people in the United States, and at least 26 have died, most in Washington state. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said communities will need to start thinking about canceling large gatherings, closing schools and letting more employees work from home, as many companies have done after an outbreak in the Seattle area.

In Silicon Valley, NASA's Ames Research Center is essentially closed with restricted access because an employee tested positive Sunday for the coronavirus. Workers will be on “mandatory telework status” and three earth science airplane missions are being delayed to later this year, the county said.

## Trump plans payroll tax relief in response to coronavirus

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**President Donald Trump says his administration will ask Congress to pass payroll tax relief and other quick measures as a public health and economic maelstrom brought on by the coronavirus drew closer to him personally.

Intending to calm the fears of financial markets over the impact of the epidemic, Trump told reporters Monday he is seeking “very substantial relief” to the payroll tax. Trump also said he was seeking help for hourly-wage workers to ensure they’re “not going to miss a paycheck” and “don’t get penalized for something that’s not their fault.”

He stepped forward with the contours of an initiative after markets dropped sharply and as the outbreak spread. Several Trump confidants in Congress disclosed they were isolating themselves after potential exposure to the virus; one traveled with the president from Florida on Air Force One on Monday; another was his just-tapped new chief of staff.

Trump said he would hold a press conference Tuesday to outline the proposals, saying his administration and

Congress would be “discussing a possible payroll tax cut or relief, substantial relief, very substantial relief, that’s big, that’s a big number. We’re also going to be talking about hourly wage earners getting help so that they can be in a position where they’re not going to ever miss a paycheck.”

As Trump grappled with an epidemic whose consequences he has repeatedly played down, the White House asserted it was conducting “business as usual.” But the day’s business was anything but normal. Lawmakers pressed for details on how the Capitol could be made secure, handshakes on the Hill were discouraged and a Pentagon meeting was broken into sub-groups to minimize the number of people in the same room.

The president himself dove into handshakes with supporters earlier in the day, when arriving to headline a fundraiser in Longwood, Florida, that raised approximately \$4 million for his reelection campaign and the Republican Party.

On his flight back to Washington he was accompanied

by Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, who later went into a voluntary quarantine. He was one of several GOP lawmakers who were exposed to a person at last month’s Conservative Political Action Conference who tested positive for the virus. His office said he was “mid-flight” on Air Force One when CPAC informed his staff that he had been in contact with the attendee who had the virus.

Once the plane landed, Gaetz was immediately tested.

Vice President Mike Pence, who also spoke at CPAC, said he has not been tested for the virus. White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said Trump has not been tested because he has not had “prolonged close contacts” with any patients and “does not have any symptoms.”

In Monday morning tweets, Trump vented about the market drop and news that large public gatherings were being called off because of the virus.

“At this moment there are 546 confirmed cases of Coronavirus, with 22 deaths,” Trump tweeted, comparing it to seasonal influenza and the thousands of deaths that causes. “Think about that!”

## Hundreds in DC asked to quarantine after exposure in church

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**Several hundred people are being asked to self-quarantine after potential exposure to the first confirmed case of the new coronavirus in Washington D.C., identified as the rector of prominent Episcopal church.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser said Monday that anyone who entered Christ Church Georgetown on Feb. 24 or between Feb. 28 and March 3 is requested to self-quarantine for two weeks from the date of their entrance to the church.

The new precautions come as the virus continues to roil the normal routine in the nation’s capital. A popular convention city and a springtime destination for hundreds of school trips and thousands of tourists, Washington officials have insisted that the city remains open for business. But tourism leaders admit that they expect virus fears to cut into the visitor numbers—including for the popular Cher-

ry Blossom Festival, which starts on March 20.

Officials on Saturday had announced the district’s first positive test, but identified the victim only as a man in his 50s. A second local positive test involves a man who visited the Washington area from Nigeria, but he was being hospitalized in Maryland.

Rev. Timothy Cole, the church rector, announced Sunday that he was the person whom city officials had been referring to as “patient 1.” He remains hospitalized in stable condition and the church has canceled all activities until further notice.

Late Monday, the district announced three more confirmed cases, including one man who had attended Christ Church. The church’s Facebook page said its organist/choirmaster was quarantined at home but feeling well “given the circumstances.”

Dr. Anjali Talwalkar of the Washington Health Depart-

ment said Monday that an exposure risk is defined as coming within six feet of a person with active virus symptoms.

“Several hundred people were potentially impacted,” she said.

A Washington high school linked to the second case was closed Monday, though no new confirmed coronavirus cases have been reported. Three people who stayed at the same house as the Nigerian man who tested positive in Maryland were tested Sunday and all were negative. But one of them works at the School Without Walls High School. Bowser said the school was closed for a deep cleaning and to give time to communicate with staff and parents; she expects the school to re-open Tuesday.

Two charter schools in Washington, D.C., also voluntarily closed Monday but there have been no reported or suspected virus cases linked to either.



# Asia

## Xi makes 1st visit since outbreak to Wuhan

**BEIJING** (AP)—President Xi Jinping visited China's virus epicenter Tuesday for the first time since cases of a then-unidentified respiratory illness emerged in the city of Wuhan in December.

The visit came as people gradually began to return to work in other parts of China while the virus spreads to most of the world, seriously impacting travel, markets and the global economy. Following China's example, the Italian government tightened a quarantine and imposed travel restrictions around much of the country.

■ ■ ■  
**BEIJING** (AP)—A 10-year-old boy and his mother have been rescued 52 hours after being trapped in the collapse of a virus quarantine site in southeastern China.

Video released by rescuers showed the two being pulled from the debris of the hotel that collapsed on Saturday. The location of the boy and woman was discovered late Monday night and they were freed around midnight after three hours of painstaking digging.

The hotel in the city of Quanzhou had been a quarantine site for people exposed to the new coronavirus.

The death toll in the collapse rose to 18 on Tuesday, with 12 people missing. A total of 71 people had been inside the hotel when it crumbled in mere seconds.



In this March 8, 2020, photo released by Xinhua News Agency, an aerial view shows staff members clean up an empty makeshift hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province.

The cause is still under investigation, although structural work being done on the lower level is suspected.

Most parts of China are quarantining people from high-risk areas or even those who traveled abroad or simply outside their home regions areas for 14 days.

■ ■ ■  
The disease's spread in China cast scrutiny on Xi's leadership, as he was conspicuously

absent from the public eye during the early days of the crisis. Initial failures to react quickly were pegged on municipal and provincial-level officials who have since been replaced.

State media reported Xi arrived in the morning in Wuhan, which has been under lockdown along with several nearby cities since late January in a disease-containment measure. The city has the bulk

of the country's more than 80,000 confirmed cases, and authorities sent thousands of medical workers and built several prefabricated isolation wards to deal with its mass of COVID-19 patients.

Xi will inspect the epidemic prevention and control work and visit medical workers, community volunteers, patients and others on the front lines, state media said. Amid

questions about Xi's involvement, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang had visited Wuhan in late January.

While China still has the majority of the world's cases, its proportion is shrinking as the epidemic expands, especially in Europe and the Middle East. The battle to halt the coronavirus has brought sweeping new restrictions, with Italy expanding a travel

ban to the entire country, Israel ordering all visitors quarantined just weeks before Passover and Easter, and Spain closing all schools in and around its capital.

"Now that the virus has a foothold in so many countries, the threat of a pandemic has become very real," said World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The great advantage we have is the decisions we all make as governments, businesses, communities, families and individuals can influence the trajectory of this epidemic."

More than 113,000 people have been infected with the virus, and more than 4,000 have died of the COVID-19 illness it causes. More than 63,000 people have already recovered. But Italy's intensifying struggle to halt the virus' spread emerged as a cautionary tale.

"There won't be just a red zone," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said, in announcing that a lockdown covering about 16 million people in the north would be expanded to the entire country starting Tuesday.

Travelers at Milan's main train station had to show they were traveling for "proven work needs," situations of necessity, health reasons or to return home. Ski lifts were closed after students whose classes were canceled planned trips there.

## Mask-clad Chinese workers cautiously return to the office

**BEIJING** (AP)—Riding the subway for the first time after weeks of working remotely from home, Zhuang Xue felt a sense of calm, outfitted in a blue surgical mask and protective goggles as she headed for the office.

The 29-year-old purchasing agent joined other office workers finally allowed back to their cubicles on Monday in Beijing, where virtually no new COVID-19 cases have been reported in recent days.

Authorities extended the Lunar New Year holiday that began in late January, ordering most workers in the city to stay home to help curb the spread of the virus that has infected more than 110,000 people worldwide, most of them in China.

Zhuang, her goggles fogged up in the morning chill as she left the subway station, said she had been preparing for this moment for weeks, exercising at home and trying to eat as healthily as possible to

strengthen her immune system. She was carrying disinfectant wipes and a personal water bottle.

"Everyone is pretty conscientious," Zhuang said.

It's not exactly life as usual, though. Fearing a resurgence in cases, the government is taking a gradual approach.

Beijing's city government is requiring that the number of people in each office be limited to no more than 50% of usual staffing levels. Protective face masks are required, and office workers must be seated at least 1 meter (3.3 feet) apart. Workers are not supposed to face each other when eating.

Similar measures have been implemented to varying degrees across the country, as the number of new cases has dwindled.

China reported just 19 new cases of the virus on Tuesday. Last month, the number of new daily cases was in the thousands. At least 59,000

people in mainland China have recovered from the disease, according to the National Health Commission, while more than 3,000 have died.

While Chinese cities experiment with slowly reviving activity, other countries are canceling public gatherings, encouraging remote work and—in the case of Italy—following China's lead with a lockdown on affected regions.

"It might be more serious now overseas," said Yang Tianxiao, a finance worker who has been back at his office for a couple of weeks.

"I think in China it's OK," Yang said. "Things are slowly returning to normal."

Chinese factories that make the world's smartphones, toys and other consumer goods are gradually reopening but aren't expected to reach normal production until at least April. Travel curbs are still in place in many areas, making it difficult for employees to get back to work.

## Safety of Fukushima waste water focus of sea release debate

**OKUMA, Japan** (AP)—Inside a giant decontamination facility at the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant, workers in hazmat suits monitor radioactive water pumped from three damaged reactors, making sure it's adequately—though not completely—treated.

Three lines of equipment connected to pipes snaking around in this dimly lit, sprawling facility can process up to 750 tons of contaminated water a day. Four other lines elsewhere in the plant can process more.

From there, the water is pumped to a complex of about 1,000 temporary storage tanks that crowd the plant's grounds, where additional tanks are still being built. Officials say the huge tanks will be completely full by the summer of 2022.

The decontamination process, which The Associated Press viewed on a recent tour, is a key element of a contentious debate over what should be done with the nearly 1.2

million tons of still-radioactive water being closely watched by governments and organizations around the world ahead of this summer's Tokyo Olympics.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, says it needs to free up space as work to decommission the damaged reactors approaches a critical phase. It's widely expected that TEPCO will gradually release the water into the nearby ocean following a government decision allowing it to do so. The company is still vague on the timing.

But local residents, especially fishermen, are opposed to the plan because they think the water release would hurt the reputation of already battered fisheries, where annual sales remain about half of the level before the nuclear accident, even though the catch has cleared strict radioactivity tests.

TEPCO Chief Decommissioning Officer Akira Ono

says the water must be disposed as the plant's decommissioning moves forward because the area used by the tanks is needed to build facilities for the retrieval of melted reactor debris.

Workers are planning to remove a first batch of melted debris by December 2021. Remote control cranes are dismantling a highly contaminated exhaust tower near Unit 2, the first reactor to get its melted fuel removed. At Unit 3, spent fuel units are being removed from a cooling pool ahead of the removal of melted fuel.

The dilemma over the ever-growing radioactive water is part of the complex aftermath of the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that hit on March 11, 2011, destroying key cooling functions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. Three reactors melted, releasing massive amounts of radiation and forcing 160,000 residents to evacuate. About 40,000 still haven't returned.



# World

## Italy expands lockdown, Israel tightens entry to halt virus

**SOAVE, Italy (AP)**—The battle to halt the coronavirus brought sweeping new restrictions Monday, with Italy expanding a travel ban to the entire country, Israel ordering all visitors quarantined just weeks before Passover and Easter, and Spain closing all schools in and around its capital.

Even as workers in Beijing returned to their jobs and new infections in China continued to subside, Italians struggled to navigate the rapidly changing parameters of the nation's self-imposed lockdown.

The fears fanned by the virus sent Wall Street stocks tumbling to their biggest drop since 2008, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 7.8%. Global oil prices suffered their worst percentage losses since the start of the 1991 Gulf War.

"Now that the virus has a foothold in so many countries, the threat of a pandemic has become very real," said World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The great advantage we have is the decisions we all make as governments, businesses, communities, families and individuals can influence the trajectory of this epidemic."

More than 113,000 people have been infected with the virus, and more than 3,900 have died of the COVID-19 illness it causes. Most of the cases are in China, but its proportion is shrinking as the caseload grows elsewhere. More than 62,000 people have already recovered. But Italy's intensifying struggle to halt



A worker wearing a protective suit sprays disinfectant inside a citizen's service office in the Athens' eastern suburb of Dafni, Monday, March 9, 2020.

the virus' spread emerged as a cautionary tale.

"There won't be just a red zone," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said, in announcing that a lockdown covering about 16 million people in the north would be expanded to the entire country starting Tuesday.

Italian doctors celebrated one small victory after the first patient diagnosed with the illness, a 38-year-old Unilever worker, was moved out of intensive care and began breathing on his own. But the virus' rapid spread was forcing

them to operate like war-time medics, triaging patients to decide who get access to scarce ICU beds.

"Unfortunately we're only at the beginning," said Dr. Massimo Galli, head of infectious disease at Milan's Sacco hospital.

Travelers at Milan's main train station had to sign police forms self-certifying that they are traveling for "proven work needs," situations of necessity, health reasons or to return home. Ski lifts were ordered to close after students whose classes were

canceled began organizing trips to winter resorts.

Italy's 9,172 cases and 463 deaths are the second-most in the world. China on Tuesday recorded just 19 new cases over the previous 24 hours, its lowest total since it began reporting national figures on Jan. 20.

Inmates at more than two dozen Italian prisons rioted against restrictions on family

visits and other containment measures, and six died after they broke into the infirmary and overdosed on methadone.

Pope Francis livestreamed a Mass he celebrated alone but held some meetings.

For most people, the new type of coronavirus first detected in China in December causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and

cough. It can progress to serious illness including pneumonia, especially in older adults and people with existing health problems.

China has registered 80,754 cases in total and 3,136 deaths as of Tuesday.

The apparent subsiding of its outbreak came only after Chinese authorities imposed massive quarantines, which are still largely in place. Other virus-hit countries are embracing less strict, but still aggressive measures.

Israel will quarantine anyone arriving from overseas for 14 days, a decision coming barely a month before Easter and Passover.

All St. Patrick's Day parades were canceled in Ireland, including one in Dublin that typically draws half a million to its streets.

All schools in and around Madrid will close for two weeks. The rising number of cases around Spain's capital "imply a change for the worse," the country's Health Minister Salvador Illa said.

Trying to send a message of confidence in the economy, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife walked on Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue. "I'm shaking hands using my heart," he said as he waved to people while keeping a 1-meter distance from passersby.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### US: 2 service members killed by 'enemy forces' in Iraq

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Two U.S. service members were killed by "enemy forces" while advising and accompanying Iraqi security forces, the U.S. military said in a statement Monday. The military said in a statement the two were killed during a mission to eliminate a stronghold for the Islamic State group in a mountainous area of north-central Iraq on Sunday. The names of the service members were withheld pending next of kin notification, in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense policy, the statement said. A senior Iraqi official, speaking from Baghdad, said a joint mission between Iraq's counter-terrorism forces and U.S.-led coalition forces south of Makhmour in northern Iraq came under attack from IS militants. During the fighting, two U.S. service members were killed. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, said there was also air support from the U.S.-led coalition.

#### Sudan PM says he survived 'terror attack' in capital

**CAIRO (AP)**—Sudan's prime minister said Monday he survived a "terror attack" after an explosion and gunfire targeted his motorcade in the capital Khartoum. Abdalla Hamdok, a longtime economist, tweeted he was "safe and in good shape" following the explosion. Sudanese state TV said Hamdok had been heading to his office when the attack took place. Ham-

dok also tweeted a photo of himself smiling and seated at a large desk, while a TV behind him showed news coverage reporting he'd survived. The attack highlighted the fragility of Sudan's transition to civilian rule, almost a year after pro-democracy protesters forced the military to remove autocratic President Omar al-Bashir from power and replace him with a joint military-civilian government, which has promised to hold elections in three years.

#### Ethiopia says Trump got inaccurate information on Nile dam

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)**—An Ethiopian Cabinet minister says that U.S. President Donald Trump was provided with "inaccurate and inadequate" information about the dam the country is building on the Nile River. The remarks came amid a public disagreement with Egypt after Ethiopia did not attend the latest round of talks over the dam on Feb. 26 in Washington, D.C. Following the breakdown in the talks, which are being mediated by the U.S. and the World Bank, Trump phoned Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and "expressed hope that an agreement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam would be finalized soon," according to a statement issued by the White House. This prompted speculation that Trump is favoring Egypt in the dispute. Trump "was given inadequate and inaccurate information on some issues regarding our dam," Sileshi Bekele, Ethiopia's water and energy minister, said on a popular Ethiopian late night show.

## Key UN body reaffirms 1995 plan to achieve gender equality

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The main U.N. body promoting women's rights reaffirmed the 1995 road map to achieve gender equality on Monday and pledged to step up implementation amid warnings of rising gender inequality and conservative push-back against its far-reaching agenda.

The Commission on the Status of Women adopted a political declaration backing the 150-page platform for action adopted by 189 countries at the 1995 Beijing women's conference.

The commission, known as CSW, had been expecting up to 12,000 people from the U.N.'s 193 member nations to come to New York for its annual meeting. But it decided to postpone the major event to a future date because of the spread of the new coronavirus. Instead it held a drastically scaled-

back event with New York-based participants to adopt the declaration.

Diplomats and civil society representatives in the General Assembly hall burst into applause when Armenia's U.N. Ambassador Mher Margaryan, the commission chair, banged a gavel signifying the declaration's approval by consensus by the commission's 45 member nations from all regions of the world.

Its approval came a day after International Women's Day, when hundreds of thousands of women filled the streets of the world's largest cities to protest gender violence and inequality. While many protests were peaceful, others were marred by tension, with security forces arresting demonstrators at a rally in Kyrgyzstan and police reportedly using tear gas to break up a demonstration by thousands

of women in Turkey.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told last week's United Nations' event marking the day that "gender inequality is the overwhelming injustice of our age and the biggest human rights challenge we face."

Before Monday's adoption of the declaration, he told the commission that change is urgently needed to transform the male-dominated world that has existed for millennia.

"Centuries of discrimination, deep-rooted patriarchy and misogyny have created a yawning gender power gap in our economies, our political systems and our corporations," Guterres said.

He said the Beijing declaration and platform "define the most comprehensive and transformative global agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment."



# Focus

**R**oylan Hernandez Diaz's long journey ended inside a white-walled cell in the solitary confinement wing of a Louisiana prison.

Nearby were the last of his belongings: a tube of toothpaste, a few foam cups, and a sheet of paper explaining how he could request his release from immigration detention. He had already been denied three times.

The Cuban man had been placed in solitary six days earlier because he told his jailers he would refuse all meals to protest his detention. The jailers put him there even after medical staff had referred him for mental health treatment three times and documented an intestinal disorder that caused him excruciating pain.

And for at least an hour before he was found to have hanged himself, no one had opened the door to check whether he was alive.

His death might have been prevented. An Associated Press investigation into Hernandez's death last October found neglect and apparent violations of government policies by jailers under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, at a time when detention of migrants has reached record levels and new questions have arisen about the U.S. government's treatment of people seeking refuge.

ICE requires migrants detained in solitary confinement to be visually observed every 30 minutes. Surveillance video shows a jail guard walking past Hernandez's cell twice in the hour before he was found, writing in a binder stored on the wall next to his cell door. She doesn't lift the flap over the cell door window or try to look inside. The last person to look in the window was an unidentified jail employee, 40 minutes before Hernandez was found.

A person who works at the jail and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity says the jail later discovered Hernandez couldn't be seen from the window.

"I think they let him die," said Yarelis Gutierrez Barrios, his partner.

Hernandez spent most of his 43 years rebelling against Cuba's Communist government and spent years traveling South and Central America with Gutierrez before arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border in May 2019.

After presenting himself legally at a border bridge in El Paso, Hernandez was taken into custody and eventually transferred to the Richwood Correctional Center in Mon-



## The preventable death of an asylum seeker in a solitary cell

By NOMAAN MERCHANT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

roe, Louisiana.

Looking to fill prisons emptied by criminal justice reform, rural Louisiana communities filled jail beds with asylum seekers and other migrants. At one point last year, Louisiana had about 8,000 migrants in detention, second only to Texas and up from about 2,000 migrants at the end of the Obama administration.

Louisiana also has become notorious for the broad denial of parole to migrants, particularly large populations of Cubans, Venezuelans, and people from South Asia. A federal judge in September ruled that ICE's New Orleans field office was violating the agency's own guidelines by failing to give each migrant a case-by-case determination of whether they could be released.

Hernandez had irritable bowel syndrome. People who

knew him remember seeing him in constant pain. The syndrome also has been associated with anxiety and depression.

He was placed in solitary confinement for threatening a hunger strike after being denied parole and told by a judge that he would have to wait months longer to press his asylum case.

The interior of the cell where Hernandez was held when he died did not have video surveillance, according to the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, the local law enforcement agency called to investigate soon after he was found dead.

But the sheriff's office obtained video from the hallway outside his cell that captures the last hour before his body was found. This is what it shows:

**--1:19 p.m.:** A guard walks up to Hernandez's door. She

takes a binder from the wall next to the door, writes in it, then puts the binder back on the wall. She never looks into the window of Hernandez's cell door.

**--1:46:** A man in street clothes walking by the cell stops to open the flap over the cell door window and looks inside. The sheriff's office says the man was a jail employee but doesn't have his name in its records.

**--1:54:** The female guard comes back. Again, she takes the binder, writes in it, and puts the binder back without looking into the cell.

**--2:04:** Three staff members and what appears to be a jail trusty walk past the cell, filling most of the hallway. Going around the small crowd, a jail captain walks closer to the wall and comes next to Hernandez's cell door. The captain, identified by

the sheriff's office as Gerald Hardwell, later told investigators he had noticed a "strong odor" emanating from the cell.

He had discovered that Hernandez hanged himself with a bed sheet tied to the post of his bunk bed.

Photos taken of his body show that Hernandez may have been dead for several hours before he was found, based on how the blood had pooled in his hands, according to an analysis done at AP's request by Dr. Nizam Peerwani, the medical examiner for Fort Worth, Texas, and a forensic expert with the advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights.

ICE declined to answer most questions for this story. Spokesman Bryan Cox said ICE "holds its personnel, including contractors, to the highest standards of professional and ethical behavior."

**AP**  
In this Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 photo, Yarelis Gutierrez Barrios holds up a cell phone photo at her home in Tampa, Fla., of herself with her partner Roylan Hernandez Diaz, a Cuban asylum seeker who hanged himself in a Louisiana prison. An Associated Press investigation into Hernandez's death last October found neglect and apparent violations of government policies by jailers under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Scott Sutterfield, a development executive for LaSalle Corrections, the prison company that runs Richwood, declined to answer any questions "due to pending litigation." "I can say that LaSalle Corrections is firmly committed to the health and welfare of all those in our custody," Sutterfield said.

Aside from Yarelis Gutierrez, Hernandez left behind two daughters and a son, as well as his mother and father.

When he left home for the last time, his family knew he hoped to get to America with the intention of making money to support them. Now, they have many questions about his death: How someone so strong in his convictions could have taken his own life? What happened to him in the jail, and why?

"He had struggled to get to this country, because he loved this country, he loved it with all his life," Gutierrez said. "He gave his life for this country."



# Good Housekeeping

## How often should you water your plants? When in doubt, check the soil

By JEANETTE MARANTOS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When it comes to watering plants, the best advice is simple: Water infrequently but deeply, and let the soil be your guide.

Some plants have greater water needs than others. Once established, for instance, California native plants and even some Mediterranean herbs such as rosemary and thyme don't like much water. Roses and vegetables, however, are generally thirstier, and require consistent water.

To start, it's best to group plants with similar water needs. For instance, don't try to grow water-loving tomatoes and basil with rosemary, because there's no way you can keep everybody happy, said Yvonne Savio, creator of the Gardening in L.A. blog and long-time director of the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program. "You need to create different zones, so plants with similar needs go together," she said.

The bottom line: Water deeply one or two times a week instead of short spurts



Watering houseplants.

every other day, said Savio and professional gardener Lauri Kranz of Edible Gardens L.A. and author of "A Garden Can

Be Anywhere."

Even in the warmest days of summer, a good soak every three or four days is best

for plants because it forces their roots deeper into the soil where they are healthier and cooler. Shallow-rooted plants are more susceptible to damage during heat waves.

### Watering edibles

Kranz usually plants in raised beds of untreated, unpainted wood (no wider than 4 feet so the middle is always within reach). She thinks drip irrigation is the best way to keep them watered. After she fills the beds with soil, she lays a half-inch irrigation hose on one end and strings quarter-inch perforated hoses the length of the bed, 6 inches apart.

During spring and summer in Southern California, she suggests drip watering three times a week for 18 minutes, then adjusting from there if the soil is too wet or dry. Don't know how to tell? Stick your finger in the soil. If it's consistently moist 2 inches down, your plants are fine. If it's dry, break out the hose.

Drip irrigation on a timer gives you consistent watering, but be sure to check your garden regularly to see whether it's getting enough water, Kranz said. You may need to water more often when it's especially hot.

Kranz generally uses organic potting soil and compost in her beds, along with an organic mulch, which keeps moisture in the ground longer. Savio also uses lots of compost in her soil and mulch on top as well as a thin (about a half-inch) layer of coffee grounds to help keep moisture in the soil. (She collects from

local coffee shops. Don't put coffee grounds on too thickly, she said, because they can get crusty and repel water.)

Savio has developed an effective way of keeping her extensive vegetable garden watered. She has buried 5-gallon nursery buckets, drainage holes in the bottom, between her tomatoes and other vegetables. She fills the buckets a couple of times a week so the water drains slowly into the soil.

Choose buckets with thick, firm sides so they don't buckle, and don't forget the drainage holes in the bottom. Bury the buckets so their tops are about 4 inches above the soil, she said, to leave room for mulch. This also makes it less likely that lizards will fall in.

Most nurseries have an ample supply, Savio said, and sell them for a nominal fee, if they charge at all.

The buckets make fertilizing easy. Add a shovelful of manure to the water or add liquid fertilizers, following the directions on the label.

Already planted your garden? Savio suggests digging holes about a foot from your plants, until their roots become visible, which may be just a few inches down. Stop digging when you see the roots, she said, and place the bucket as far as you can into that shallow hole. The water will still go deeper than surface watering and allow you to add fertilizers.

### Watering lawns

Lawns get a bum rap for requiring too much water, said Jim Baird, a turf grass special-

ist at UC Riverside's Turfgrass Research Facility. The problem isn't with lawns, he says. They keep dust down and neighborhoods cooler, thus reducing energy costs.

The problem, Baird said, is the way people water their lawns. Think "deficit watering" rather than "optimum watering" to keep your water costs low and your lawns healthy, he said.

Learn how to use your sprinkler timer, and turn off your irrigation in the cool months between November and April.

When it warms up, water deeply in the early morning or evening for 10 to 15 minutes three or four days a week, depending on your lawn type (three days for warm-season grasses, such as Bermuda; four days for cool-season grasses, such as fescue). If runoff is a problem, divide your watering time into three-minute cycles, Baird said. "Your lawn won't be super lush," he said, "but it will be good enough."

If you're planting or redoing your lawn, consider warm-season grasses such as Bermuda or buffalo grass, which need about 20% less water to stay green in hot, dry conditions, Baird said. Bermuda lawns aren't as popular as fescue because they turn brown in winter, but there are many varieties of Bermuda, Baird said, and UCR's Turfgrass Research Facility is developing new varieties that stay green during their dormant season.

Regular feeding of your lawn about four times a year can help reduce its water needs as well, Baird said. Grass needs nitrogen, and one of the best fertilizers is its own clippings, he said, so instead of sending clippings to the landfill, invest in a mulching mower and stop wasting that free fertilizer.

Be sure your mower blades are sharpened at least once a year, because dull blades shred and stress the grass. And be sure you are mowing to the right height — 3 to 4 inches for fescue/cool-season grasses but just 1½ to 2 inches for Bermuda/warm-season grasses.

Finally, check your sprinklers every year to be sure they are working properly. Fixed-spray nozzles of the same size are more efficient than rotary type sprinklers, but if you're replacing or installing a lawn, Marco Schiavon, Baird's colleague, thinks the most efficient system is subsurface irrigation, a series of PVC pipes with holes, spaced about a foot apart, 4 to 6 inches deep.

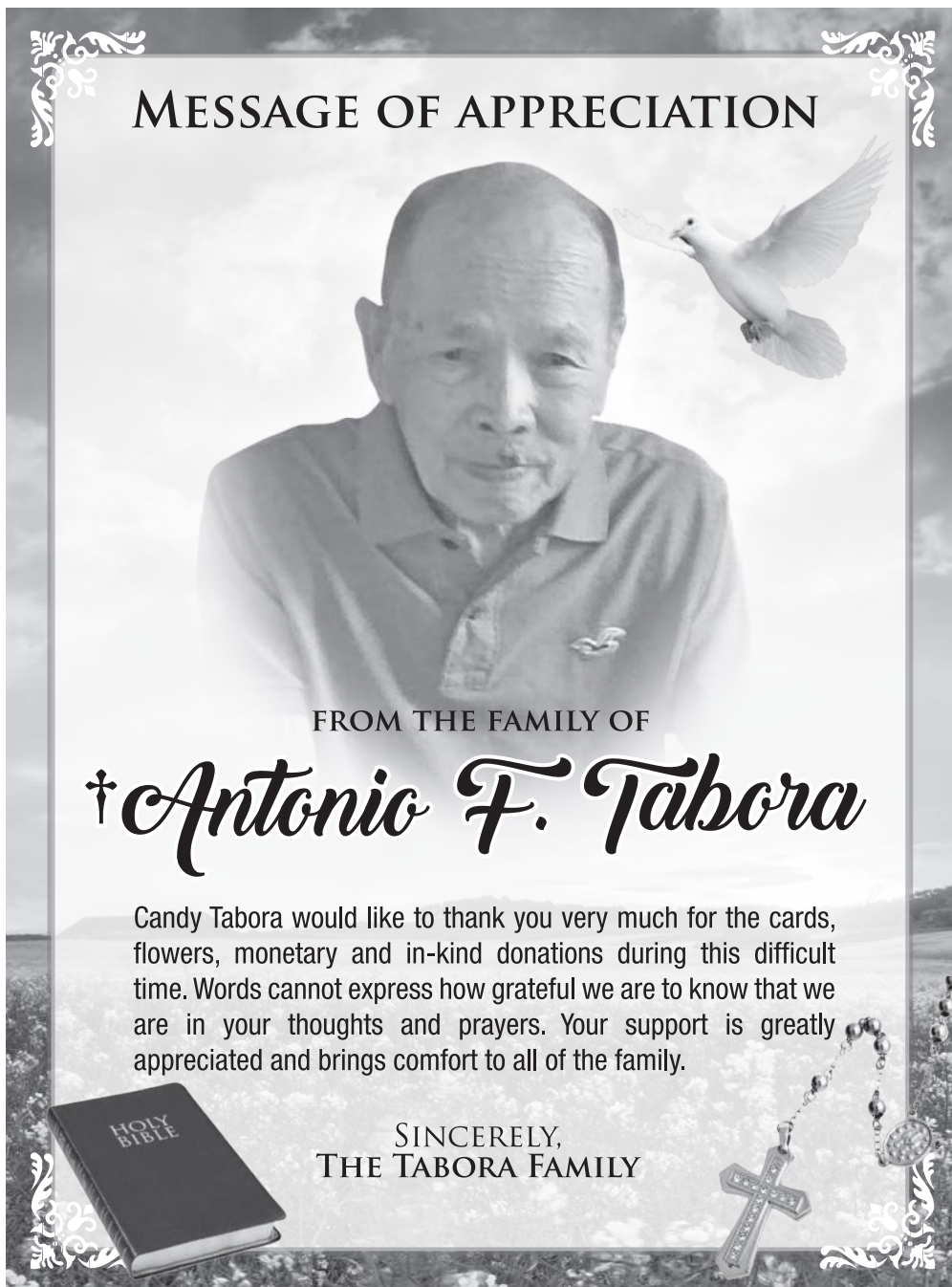
## MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

FROM THE FAMILY OF

† *Antonio F. Tabora*

Candy Tabora would like to thank you very much for the cards, flowers, monetary and in-kind donations during this difficult time. Words cannot express how grateful we are to know that we are in your thoughts and prayers. Your support is greatly appreciated and brings comfort to all of the family.

SINCERELY,  
THE TABORA FAMILY





## Life & Style

# 'Exorcist' actor Max von Sydow dies at age 90

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** (AP)—Max von Sydow, the self-described “shy boy”-turned-actor known to art house audiences through his work with Swedish director

Ingmar Bergman and later to moviegoers everywhere when he played the priest in the horror classic “The Exorcist,” has died. He was 90.

His agent Jean Diamond said

Monday the actor, who was born in Sweden but became a French citizen in 2002, died the previous day in France.

“It is with a broken heart and with infinite sadness that we have the extreme pain of announcing the departure of Max von Sydow,” Diamond said.

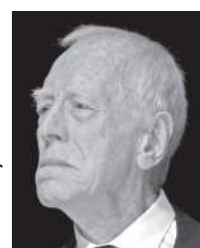
From his 1949 screen debut in the Swedish film “Only a Mother,” von Sydow starred in close to 200 film and TV productions, remaining active well into his 80s. He received two Academy Award nominations—for best actor in 1988 for his gripping portrayal of an impoverished farmer in “Pelle the Conqueror,” and best supporting actor in 2012 for his role as a mute in “Extremely Loud & Incredibly

Close.” More recently, he received an Emmy nomination for his work as the Three-Eyed Raven in HBO’s “Game of Thrones.”

The Swede was a mainstay of nearly a dozen classic, angst-

ridden films by Bergman, including “Wild Strawberries,” “Shame” and the 1957 release “The Seventh Seal,” in which he featured in one of Bergman’s most memorable scenes, as the medieval knight who plays a game of chess against the grim reaper.

Actress Inga Landgre, 92, who appeared with him in “The Seventh Seal” told Sweden’s news agency TT that “there



Sydow

was a sense of security in his radiance” adding, “his presence was his strength.”

“Max Von Sydow was something like a consummate actor, with a pride in his art and a dedication to his craft that I’ve encoun-

tered in very few people in my life,” recalled Martin Scorsese, who co-starred in the director’s “Shutter Island.” “On the set he was remarkable, and off the set he a complete gentleman.”

Von Sydow made his Hollywood debut as Jesus in the 1965 film “The Greatest Story Ever Told,” but gained widespread international fame as the devil-evilting priest in William Friedkin’s controver-

sial 1973 film “The Exorcist.”

Tall and lanky, with sullen blue eyes, a narrow face, pale complexion and a deep and accented speaking voice, von Sydow was often typecast in Hollywood as the sophisticated villain.

“What I as an actor look for is a variety of parts. It is very boring to be stuck in more or less one type of character,” he once said in an interview.

In 1980, von Sydow starred as the evil emperor Ming the Merciless in “Flash Gordon.” He turned down the role as the sinister Dr. No in the first James Bond film with the same name, but later appeared as the cat-stroking villain Ernst Blofeld in the 1983 “Never Say Never Again,” starring Sean Connery as Bond.

## Zeppelin wins latest battle of the bands in 'Stairway' fight

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A federal appeals court on Monday restored a jury verdict that found Led Zeppelin did not steal “Stairway to Heaven.”

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco handed the major win to guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant and dealt a blow to the estate of Randy Wolfe of the band Spirit. The estate claimed that the 1971 mega-hit “Stairway to Heaven” violated the copyright of the 1968 song “Taurus.”

A majority of an 11-judge panel overturned a previous ruling that the jury in the 2016 trial should have heard the recording of “Taurus” and was given poor instructions before jurors found in favor of Page and Plant.

The composition of the two songs, not their recordings, were at issue in the case, but the plaintiffs had sought to play the two recordings for jurors as part of their argument that Page had access to the song “Taurus” as required to prove a copyright violation.

The attorney for the estate, Francis Malofiy, said that Led

Zeppelin prevailed because of technicalities and judges’ misunderstanding of copyright law with their insistence that sheet-music transcriptions of the songs filed with the U.S. copyright office were the only relevant material, especially given that neither Page nor Wolfe even read music.

“I have to go to court proving that Jimmy Page copied something that he never saw,” said Malofiy, who plans to appeal the decision.

He said it was “ridiculous” that jurors could not simply hear the two songs in dispute, and that if they could the case would be an easy call for the Wolfe estate.

“Its frustrating when justice is the search for the truth and the truth escapes us,” Malofiy said.

Representatives for Led Zeppelin declined comment.

Monday’s ruling found that because the jury found that Page did have access to the song that the issue was irrelevant, and playing the recording might have prejudiced the jury to consider more than just the compositions.

## Weinstein lawyers seek mercy after his 'historic' fall

**NEW YORK** (AP)—With prosecutors seeking a severe punishment for Harvey Weinstein in his landmark #MeToo case, his lawyers argued on Monday that he deserves mercy for his already “historic fall from grace” and serious health issues.

In a letter filed in advance of Weinstein’s sentencing on Wednesday for his New York City rape conviction, his defense team asked Judge James Burke to give him to only five years behind bars—a far cry from the potential 29-year maximum term allowed by law.

A man who was once admired for putting part of his

fortune into charitable causes during his rise to one of Hollywood’s most powerful producers now “cannot walk outside without being heckled,” the papers say. “He has lost his means to earn

a living. Simply put, his fall from grace has been historic, perhaps unmatched in the age of social media.”

Even if the ailing 67-year-old defendant is given a lesser term, “the grave reality is that Mr. Weinstein may not even outlive that term” making it “a de facto life sentence,” the papers say.



Weinstein

From the start, Weinstein’s use of a walker to get in and out of court each day at his trial raised questions about his health. After his Feb. 24 conviction, he was sent to Bellevue

Hospital amid concerns about high blood pressure and heart palpitations for more than a week before being transferred late last week in an infirmary on the notorious Riker Island jail complex.

In addition to the heart issues, Weinstein’s lawyers have said he was also dealing with the ramifications of unsuccessful back surgery

stemming from a car crash last summer and a condition that requires shots in his eyes so he does not go blind.

In their own filing last week, prosecutors detailed a litany of allegations starting with a claim by a woman that she woke up in the middle of the night in a Buffalo, New York, hotel room in 1978 to find Weinstein on top of her and “forcing himself sexually on her.” They said it fit a pattern that continued for decades: Weinstein getting young women alone in hotel rooms and other settings before sexually attacking them, often while trying to trick them into thinking it was a path to stardom.

## Man gets angry when wife resists catering to his libido

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 30 years. I still work full time, and my husband is now retired. We have had issues during most of our marriage, mainly concerning his not getting enough sex. A couple of times a week isn't sufficient.

In the past, he looked at porn a lot. He likes to take pictures of me that he stores on his phone, wants me to wear seductive clothing when we go out and demands that I send him naked pictures of myself from work. It makes me very uncomfortable, but he gets angry when I don't play his game.

He tells me often that I am no fun. When he gets angry, he says I am not sexy enough, too fat, not smart enough, etc. Yes, we have gone to marriage counseling in the past, and I have gone to counseling alone.

I've tried to learn to cope with living with him because I really don't want to divorce and destroy our family unit. We have three grown children, and in the past he bullied our only son for not being the best sports player he could be, even though he excelled.

I would like to retire soon, but now I wonder if he expects me to be his entertainment once I do. He has no hobbies. Do you have any advice?

PLAYTHING IN TEXAS

**DEAR PLAYTHING:** I am amazed you were willing to tolerate your husband's criticism and abuse for the length of time you have. Not once in your letter did you mention a single positive trait in the man. You wish to keep together a

family that your husband has eroded.

**My first tidbit of advice is this: Go back to counseling! If you actually plan to live out your life this way, you will need every ounce of support you can pay for. My second tidbit would be to talk to a lawyer. You may want to keep the family unit intact, but the price seems exorbitant to me.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a very close friend, "Sandy." Sandy and I talk about everything. She suffers from bi-polar disorder, which, for the most part, is controlled. However, she has hit a downswing.

A few months ago, she volunteered to start babysitting my child, one evening a week for a few hours. Sandy has never had the first complaint about my child or her behavior. Recently, she came over for a visit and unloaded on me. She said she finds my child annoying, that my child has a problem listening and constantly interrupts and complains. I was completely taken aback. Abby, I have never received complaints about my child's behavior, and over the course of the months, Sandy never indicated that something was wrong.

I have been a great friend to her, always welcoming her in my home and helping however I can. I don't know what to do. I am hurt and angry. I feel like she just barged in and insulted my kid. I'm no longer sure I want to remain close to her because of this. Is this characteristic of bi-polar disorder? How do I express my feelings to her without risking having her fly off the handle? Please help!

HARSH WORDS IN THE SOUTH

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR HARSH WORDS:** Not having met your child, I am not going to weigh in on whether what Sandy said was a slight. She may have been conveying something she thought you needed to know.

That said, because Sandy finds your child annoying, she should no longer babysit for you. All children interrupt at one point or another. They don't always behave perfectly. I hope you won't take what Sandy told you as an insult worthy of ending a longtime friendship over, particularly knowing the woman has mood swings and has been cycling down.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



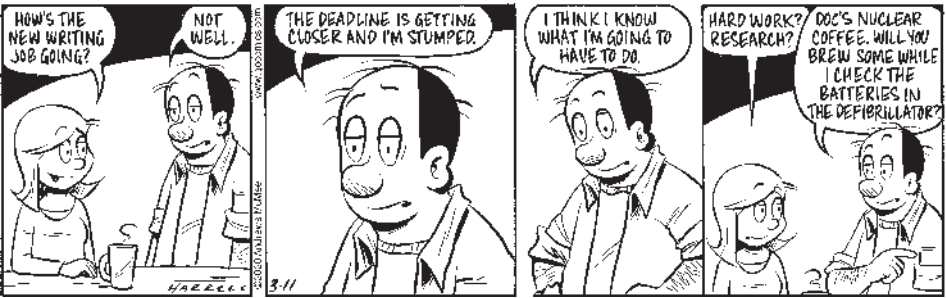
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



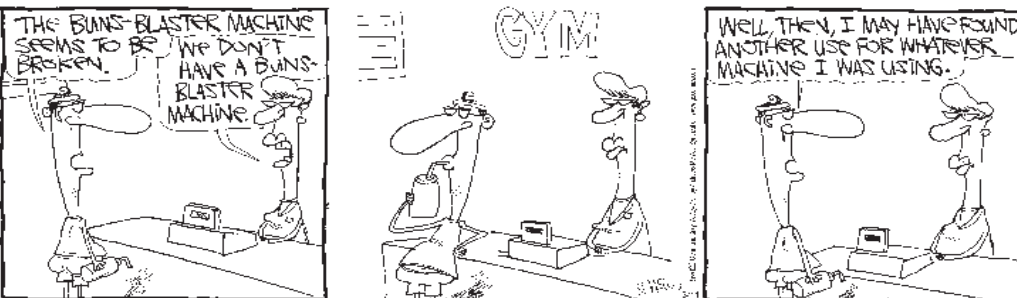
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Flightless birds 5 Silent 8 Cupid's specialty 12 Pulverize potatoes 13 Onassis nickname 14 Queen of Carthage 15 Game that may feature a windmill 17 Military group 18 Warning sound 19 Catlike 21 Labels 24 \$ dispenser 25 Toast toppings 28 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan" 30 Alphabet starter 33 Yale grad 34 Coffee bar offering 35 Flushed

DOWN 1 Madame Bovary 2 Postal delivery 3 Annapolis sch. 4 Haberdashery buys 5 Chairman of China 6 Online address 7 Peeve 8 Grown-up 9 Gas station store, often 10 Thor's father 11 Memory method 16 "Today" rival, briefly 20 Roof overhang 22 Pleased 23 Locations 25 Lustrous black 26 Hearty quaff 27 Hotel amenities 29 Coup d' — 31 Actress Arthur 32 LPs' successors 34 Bart's sister 38 Verifies 40 Evaporate 42 "Blue?" 43 Trucker with a handle 44 Sea predator 45 Overconfident 47 Bear lair 48 Recognized 49 Taxpayer IDs 52 Lyricist Gershwin 53 Pen tip

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Davis, 27; Thora Birch, 38; Johnny Knoxville, 49; Terrence Howard, 51.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind, and be observant. Collecting information, verifying what others say and taking an intelligent and patient path throughout the year will help you avoid unnecessary battles or mistakes. Emotional control will help you sidestep indulgent and excessive behavior. Protect your interests, and refrain from boasting about what you can do or have. Romance is on the rise. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 29, 33, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep the peace by withholding information that has yet to be verified. A partnership will end up in a face-off if you cannot agree. Consider backtracking to fix the problem from the ground up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll impress someone with your effort, not a cash donation. If you hold a grudge or get upset over inconsequential matters, it will set you back. Pay more attention to how you look, feel and present yourself to others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Master your skills or take the initiative to wrap up unfinished business. Look for a workable solution that will counter interference from someone trying to take over what you can do. Knowledge is power.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put yourself out there, and good things will come back to you. Don't waste time sitting

around when you can make a difference to your future or the outcome of something you are trying to accomplish. Someone will disappoint you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate in activities that offer a challenge. The more you have to do, the better you will feel, and the more informed you will become. Meetings will inspire you and help you move in a direction that leads to a higher income.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more thought into relationships, love, romance and social networking. Make this the perfect day to have fun and connect with people who have something to offer in return. An adaptable mindset will lead to a positive outcome.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let your emotions flood into conversations. Keep your private life well-hidden from those you work alongside. A creative outlet will help ease stress and attract positive attention from people who can help you get ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a journey that will open your eyes to different ways of doing things. The broader your spectrum, the easier it will be to find solutions to any problems you encounter. A steady pace, coupled with discipline, will equal success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled by fast talk or someone's evasiveness. An honest, sincere response to whatever comes your way will help you avoid making an expensive mistake. Don't feel pressured to follow the crowd or invest in someone other than yourself.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Create surroundings that add to your comfort and make you want to entertain. A property investment will pay off. Someone you respect may not agree with you, but you have to follow your heart and do what's best for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wrap your head around creative accounting, and set up a budget that will encourage you to save. Receiving a gift, winning something or finding something unusual is heading your way. Don't try to impress by spending on stuff you can't afford. You can't buy love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be bubbling with great ideas that will improve your personal life and your relationships with the people you enjoy spending time with most. A positive personal change is heading your way. Use your energy wisely; keep busy, and refuse to argue. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, challenging and skillful. You are opportunistic and insightful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2	3				5	4				
1			4		5				8		
6			2						9		
7			6						2		
	5	2					1	6			
4			3						5		
2			8						6		
9			5		7					3	
	8	7					2	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	2	4	1	3	9	7	5
3	9	7	6	5	8	2	4	1
1	5	4	7	9	2	8	6	3
4	8	1	5	7	9	3	2	6
2	7	6	1	3	4	5	9	8
9	3	5	2	8	6	7	1	4
7	1	9	3	6	5	4	8	2
5	4	8	9	2	1	6	3	7
6	2	3	8	4	7	1	5	9

Not Truly Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KEEPING IT REAL

Solution: 4 letters

U S L F I R M V O T C A F E D  
N N E U V E R S A C E L E S  
B O Q A N R W O R D S B S E T  
U I N U I A S L H E I R F P S  
R T O F E L H O H G U I A I I  
B O Y G I S S C N P L S C H X  
E M E U R C A T A M E P F T S E  
R E N M O C W R P I O N A I A O I  
Y O M I U R T H O N D L L I S  
H I I T E I O T Y N A E C T N  
C R H S M N F A C T S B R A E  
U S E A E A P P A R E L L L P  
O N T S K O S H E R R O L E X  
T E T E C N A R A E P P A R E

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3/11

Apparel, Appearance, Beliefs, Biography, Burberry, Chanel, Claim, Color, De Facto, Emotions, Exists, Expensive, Facts, Factual, Firm, Furs, Gucci, Honest, Koshier, Legitimate, Life, Memoirs, Money, Nails, Nonfiction, Not Fake, Prada, Present, Purse, Relationship, Rolex, Tangible, Touch, Truth, Unquestionable, Verify, Versace, Watches, Word

Yesterday's Answer: Hockey

Treasures 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951. 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Nuggets send Bucks to 3rd straight loss



**DENVER (AP)—**Jamal Murray led the Nuggets with 21 points but it was a basket of his that didn't count that really ignited Denver's 109-95 win over the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks.

Murray soared for a thunderous slam dunk over D.J. Wilson with 9.8 seconds left in the third quarter and Denver clinging to a 74-71 lead Monday night. Wilson jumped in an attempt to prevent the jam and was pulverized on the play, staggering out of bounds.

"It was crazy," Nuggets teammate Jerami Grant said. "I didn't think he had it in him. Obviously, he does. We've seen it."

Tweet! came the whistle.

But instead of and-one, it was no way!

The biggest of baskets was waved off and a charge called on Murray instead of a foul on Wilson.

The crowd was incredulous, the Nuggets furious, but coach Michael Malone didn't challenge the call. (He mistakenly said after the game he had already used his challenge).

"It definitely wasn't a foul," Murray said. "But yeah, I wanted to just drive, and I felt like I had a step, so I just took off."

Although the whistle went the other way, the play sparked Denver to a season sweep of the NBA-leading Bucks (53-12), who were without their top six scorers -- including reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo (knee).

"The crowd was phenomenal. After that, the crowd was into it every single play, every single steal, rebound, block, bucket," Murray said. "Once we got them going, they got us going."

The third quarter ended with Mason Plumlee's fast-break layup for a 76-71 Denver lead after Monte Morris blocked Frank Mason III's pull-up 3 from behind.

Then, the Nuggets pulled away with a 33-24 fourth quarter as Nikola Jokic, who took just two shots in the first half, finally found his rhythm and scored eight of his 10 points, including a 3-pointer that snapped an 0-for-13 skid from beyond the arc.

Paul Millsap added 20 points and Grant scored 19 as the Nuggets sent the Bucks to their third straight loss and fourth in five games.

Kyle Korver had 23 points to lead a big effort by the Bucks' backups, but Milwaukee sorely missed all that firepower during a fourth consecutive road defeat.

"At the warmup and certain guys weren't warming up, I was like, 'You playing tonight?' 'Nope, I don't think



so.' Different guys are banged up -- we're at that time of year," Korver said. "We've got a good home stretch coming up here and we want to get right. Guys have nicks and knacks and you take care of it. We've got some important games coming up so it was definitely the right call."

And the Nuggets thought Murray's waved-off basket was definitely the wrong call, albeit one that sparked them even more than any of his 21 points that did count.

"He definitely raised our energy," Grant said. "He was hitting a ton of big shots."

The Bucks were swept by

Denver in the two-game season series. The Nuggets won 127-115 in Milwaukee on Jan. 31 for their signature win this season.

With Jokic having an off night, Grant and Millsap picked up the slack with 15 first-half points each as the Nuggets raced out to a 16-point lead before Milwau-

kee cut it to 62-54 at the break.

Antetokounmpo got hurt in a loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night, and on Sunday afternoon the Bucks said he had a minor sprain of his left knee and would miss at least two games. Milwaukee's 141-130 loss at Phoenix on Sunday marked the first time

**AP**  
Milwaukee Bucks forward Thanasīs Antetokounmpo, center, is fouled as he drives to the basket between Denver Nuggets guard Gary Harris and forward Paul Millsap in the first half of an NBA game Monday, March 9, 2020, in Denver.

the Bucks dropped back-to-back games this season.

## Raptors 101, Jazz 92

In Salt Lake City, Serge Ibaka and Pascal Siakam each scored 27 points, and Toronto beat Utah for its fourth straight victory.

Kyle Lowry added 21 points and seven assists as the Raptors used a 53-34 advantage on the glass to improve to 21-4 since Jan. 15. Ibaka grabbed 13 rebounds and Siakam finished with 11 boards and eight assists.

Joe Ingles had 20 points and six assists for the Jazz, who had won five in a row. Royce O'Neale added 15 points and seven rebounds.

Toronto played much of the game without Norman Powell, who sprained his left ankle two minutes in. Powell averaged 34 points on 57% shooting over his previous two games.

## Hawks 143, Hornets 138, 2OT

In Atlanta, De'Andre Hunter broke a tie by sinking three free throws with 13.3 seconds remaining in the second overtime, and Atlanta outlasted Charlotte following a controversial finish to the first extra period.

Trae Young had 31 points and 16 assists for the Hawks, and John Collins added 28 points and 11 rebounds. He shot 12 of 13 from the field.

Hunter finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Terry Rozier led the Hornets with a career-high 40 points.

After Hunter's clutch trip to the line, Rozier missed a 3-pointer. Two free throws by Cam Reddish, who had 22 points, iced the win.

Two reviews by the officials at the end of the first overtime produced different results. Following the first review, officials said Rozier was fouled by Atlanta's Treveon Graham with 0.8 seconds remaining.

Before Rozier had a chance to attempt two free throws with the score tied, Atlanta's Lloyd Pierce registered a coach's challenge. This time, the officials ruled Rozier was not fouled. Young missed a last-gasp jumper for Atlanta.

Young made one of two free throws with 1.8 seconds left in regulation to force overtime.

## NFL players' union extends CBA voting deadline to Saturday

**NEW YORK (AP)—**The NFL players' union extended the deadline by two days for its members to vote on a new labor agreement with the league.

Ballots from some 2,500 members now are due at 11:59 p.m. EDT on Saturday. The NFL Players Association gave no reason for the extension, though reaching so many players to meet the previous deadline of one week certainly can present logistical problems.

The union said on Twitter the extension came after a vote by player representatives.

"Every vote matters and we encourage all players to review the materials sent via email in order to make an informed decision," the union wrote.

Tackle Russell Okung, recently traded from the Chargers to the Panthers and who is running for union president as Eric Winston steps aside, wonders about the process—enough so that he filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board claim-

ing the NFLPA negotiated the agreement with the league in bad faith.

Okung accused NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith of rushing to a vote on the new deal after objections from the union's executive board, which voted 6-5 against it.

The unusual move by Okung comes one day before the 32 player reps vote for a new president. The other candidates are Buccaneers linebacker Sam Acho, Giants safety Michael Thomas and Browns center JC Tretter.

The New York Times first reported Okung's action with the NLRB.

The 32 NFL owners approved the deal last month. The NFLPA's executive board then rejected it, but the player reps voted 17-14 in favor. A simple majority of the union membership is required to accept or reject the contract that would run through the 2030 season.

Every player who was a

dues-paying member during the 2019 season received a ballot, the NFLPA said. Votes will be confidential and received by an independent auditor.

The owners need labor peace to maximize their leverage in the next round of billion-dollar television contracts. With the owners unwavering in their favor of a 17-game regular season, which would begin as soon as 2021 and no later than 2023, players have focused more on safeguards for the additional wear and tear, additional roster spots, and an increased share of the revenue that would grow with the extra game.

Many high-profile players have adamantly spoken out against the proposal, including Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, Houston defensive end J.J. Watt, Pittsburgh center Maurice Pouncey and Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs.

Their primary contention with the terms is that they

don't go far enough to reward and protect the players for the extra game. Pouncey went so far as to announce recently on social media he was arranging a contingency fund with fellow critics Mike Pouncey, his brother, and Okung that would assist young players in the event of a strike. Okung also is running for NFLPA president, a job Eric Winston is leaving.

This CBA would give a bigger boost to the rank-and-file players than usual, with a roughly 20% hike to the minimum salary right away, to \$610,000. That figure would top \$1 million by 2029.

The player share of league revenue, currently at 47%, would rise to at least 48% starting in 2021. Padded practices in training camp would be reduced from a total of 28 to 16, with a five-day acclimation period preceding summer practices. There would mean more mandatory days off during camp and a limit on joint practices with other clubs.



# MLB: No plans to alter sked because of virus



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—Major League Base-

ball says it doesn't plan to alter its schedule because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"While MLB recognizes the fluidity of this rapidly evolving situation, our current intention is to play spring training and regular season games as scheduled," the league said in a statement.

Commissioner Rob Manfred held a conference call with the 30 teams Monday to discuss the health crisis.

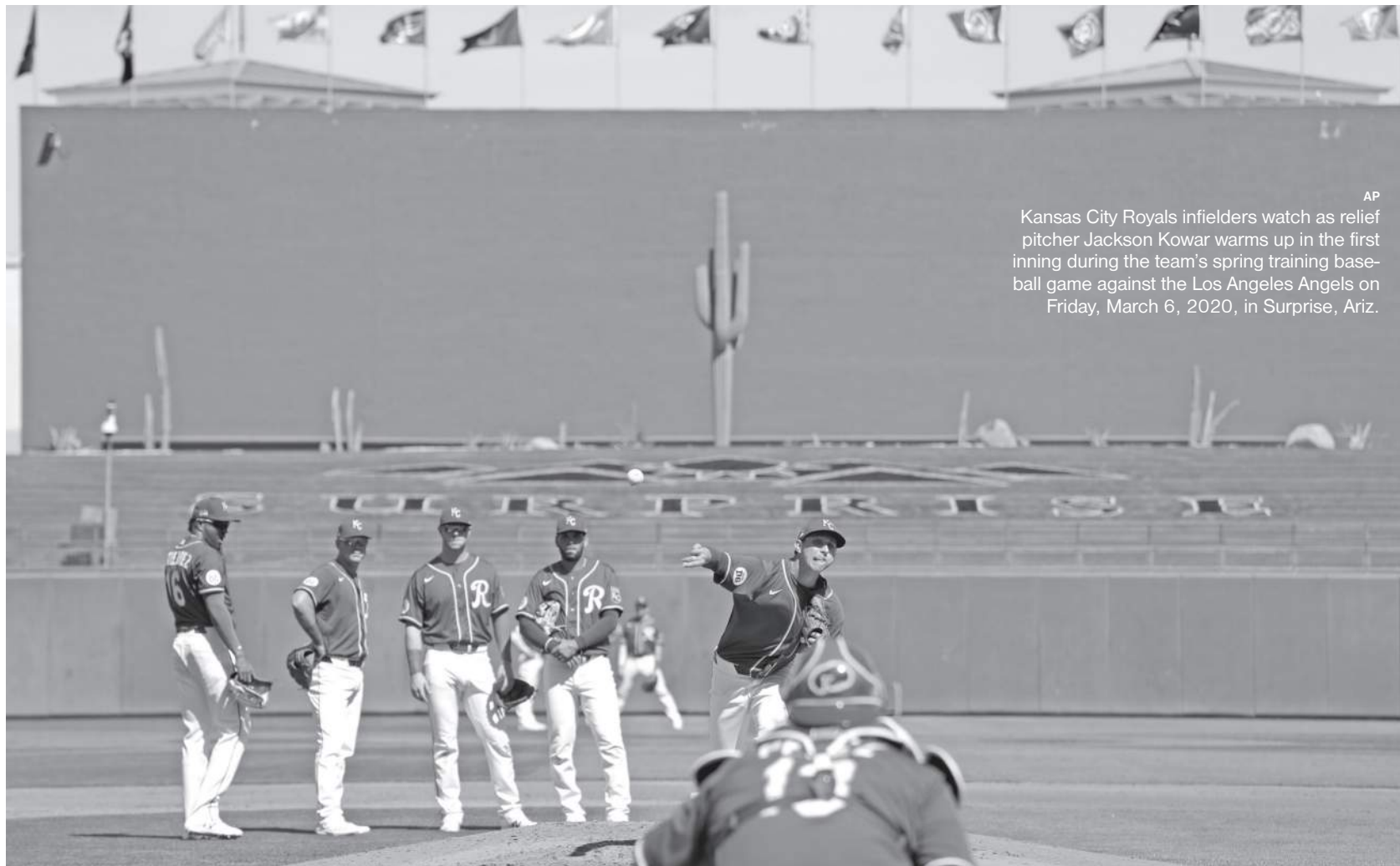
All clubs are set to open the season March 26. Among the games are Texas at Seattle, the World Series champion Washington Nationals at the New York Mets and San Francisco visiting Dodger Stadium.

The Seattle area has been hit hard by the virus outbreak. Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said there hasn't been any discussion with MLB or the Mariners about swapping home dates for that opening series, but said Texas' new ballpark would be ready if it came to that.

Spring training games are continuing in Florida and Arizona. There are exhibitions set for later this month in Montreal, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and Sacramento, California, among other sites.

"The health and safety of everyone in our communities is of the utmost importance to us. We have been engaging on an ongoing basis with a wide range of public health experts, infectious disease specialists, and governmental agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to obtain the latest information," MLB said.

MLB joined with the NBA,



AP  
Kansas City Royals infielders watch as relief pitcher Jackson Kowar warms up in the first inning during the team's spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels on Friday, March 6, 2020, in Surprise, Ariz.

NHL and Major League Soccer on Monday in temporarily banning all nonessential personnel from locker rooms.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials postponed the start of the 12-team professional baseball league season on Monday because of the spread of the virus.

The season was to begin on March 20. Preseason games had been played without fans because of the virus.

Japanese baseball officials said they were unsure when the season might start, but mentioned some time in April.

## Verlander unlikely to be ready for opener

Houston ace Justin Verlander

has a mild strain of a back muscle and said it would "probably take a miracle" for him to pitch on opening day at home against the Los Angeles Angels on March 26.

In an effort to remain positive, Verlander quickly added, "but I don't want to leave miracles off the table."

The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner was hurt on his second-to-last pitch in Sunday's exhibition game against the New York Mets. He had an MRI on Monday and was diagnosed with a strained latissimus dorsi muscle. There is not a timetable for his return.

"Talking with doctors and looking at the scans, it's defi-

nately not worst-case scenario," the Astros right-hander said. "Best-case scenario would be nothing. It's just probably somewhere in the middle of that."

The 37-year-old's velocity was down from his previous start, and he was removed after two scoreless innings of what had been scheduled as a four-inning outing.

"Hardly noticed it to be honest," Verlander said of the injury-inducing pitch. "It didn't quite feel right, just felt maybe I was a little off mechanically or something — kind of one of those spring things. Then in between innings it started to tighten up a bit."

Groin tightness slowed Verlander earlier in spring training. He said he did not know whether the two issues were related.

Verlander had a similar lat injury during spring training in 2015 and did not make his season debut until June 13. Verlander finished 5-8 with a 3.38 ERA in 133 1/3 innings for Detroit.

"Scans can say a lot of stuff and MRIs can say a lot of stuff, but one of the most important things is how you feel physically," Verlander said. "I'm trying to be very truthful with myself. I'm trying to recall also how I felt in '15. I definitely feel better this time than then."

A two-time Cy Young winner and the 2011 AL MVP, Verlander was 21-6 with a 2.58 ERA last year in 223 innings.

Verlander led the league in innings last season despite Houston managing his workload with extra days off and cutting short starts when the Astros had built big leads.

"The innings piled up because I pitched well," Verlander said. "I would rather continue to pitch well and have the innings pile up."

Zack Greinke likely will be the only one of last season's top three starters to open the season on the active roster. He allowed one run in four innings against Detroit on Monday.

No. 2 starter Gerrit Cole left as a free agent and signed with the New York Yankees. This year's projected No. 3 starter, Lance McCullers Jr., is recovering from Tommy John surgery in November 2018. José Urquidy, fourth on the

depth chart, showed promise in seven regular-season starts and four postseason appearances last year.

## Locker rooms will be closed

The NBA plans to close off locker room access to all but players and essential team personnel, according to reports. Additionally, teams will be instructed to maintain a 6-8 foot buffer between players and press during postgame media sessions outside the locker room.

MLB sources said that the league will be taking similar action in closing off clubhouses and advising teams to maintain a six-foot distance from reporters.

The league will also be monitoring the spread of the virus on a local level and could move games outside of a team's metropolitan areas if advised by authorities.

It remains to be seen if the leagues take further measures to limit potential exposure to the virus. If a few dozen people are enough of a danger that teams can't even let players near them, you have to wonder what message the leagues are sending when they let tens of thousands of people sit in close contact for hours.

Major League Soccer confirmed that it and the other leagues would all be closing locker rooms to the media an hour after the reports emerged.

The three leagues are following the lead of the NHL, which closed off locker room access on Saturday in favor of postgame news conferences.

## Team USA Summit postponed due to COVID-19

**DENVER** (AP)—The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has postponed a gathering of hundreds of athletes and media to prevent a possible spread of coronavirus among those hoping to compete in Tokyo later this year.

The Team USA Media Summit had been scheduled for next week in Los Angeles and was set to feature around 115 potential Olympians, who would gather to be interviewed by print and television journalists preparing to cover the Tokyo Games.

But in a news release sent Monday, the USOPC's chief of communications said the event would not take place "out of an abundance of caution" and other arrangements would be made for interviews.

For most people, the coro-

navirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland sent out an email to athletes, telling them that holding the summit with only four months between now and the Olympics "simply isn't a risk worth taking."

"We will continue to monitor the environment and will make necessary changes to keep us all safe and healthy," Hirshland wrote. "If you have

not heard directly from us, you should assume we are charging forward toward Tokyo 2020 as planned."

Last week, the USOPC said it was gearing up for the Olympics, using all available facts to deal with coronavirus and how it is impacting both the general public and sports events.

The announcement came only hours after the Olympic committee in Italy, where the virus is more widespread, suspended sports in the country through April 3.

Meanwhile, in Athens,

spectators will be kept away from the Olympic flame-lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia on Thursday because of the coronavirus.

Only 100 accredited guests will be allowed to attend the traditional event, Greece's Olympic committee said Monday.

A dress rehearsal on Wednesday for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic flame will also be closed to the public to comply with Greek government restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Tokyo organizing committee said it will "reduce the size of its traveling delegation as much as possible."

Tokyo officials previously said they would not send 140 children to Greece to give the flame a send-off next week on its journey to Japan.





# Tentacles of Olympic cancellation would reach around globe

**TOKYO (AP)**—The tentacles of canceling the Tokyo Olympics -- or postponing or staging it in empty venues—would reach into every corner of the globe, much like the spreading virus that now imperils the opening ceremony on July 24.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers say the games are on, but the clock is ticking.

The fate of the Tokyo Games touches 11,000 Olympic and 4,400 Paralympic athletes, coaches and sports

officials, local organizers, the Japanese government and national broadcasters, fans, and world sponsors. Add to this hotels, airlines, and taxi drivers—and even 80,000 unpaid volunteers who will miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“I’ve heard things about possibly the Olympics being canceled, and I think that would stink,” J’den Cox, a two-time world champion wrestler and

an Olympic bronze medalist in Rio de Janeiro, told Associated Press. “It would probably break everybody’s heart if that were to happen.”

The Olympic brand could be damaged, although the Switzerland-based International Olympic Committee may be among the least affected parties financially if the games are called off. The IOC has been resolute in its message, although it has a several-month window to decide.



## MATANSA

From Page 24

the team standings behind idle TanHoldings Football Club.

Takeru Jim and William Sosa delivered two goals each for MP United, while Stephen Yeom, William Lee, Moshe Sikkell, Casey Chambers, Ian Song, and Miles Linden

chipped in one apiece. Kanoa’s lone goal in the match came from Peter Quidato and with its lackluster showing, the team is still winless this season, dropping its fourth game.

## BOYS U19 DIVISION MP United 16, Kanoa 2 0

MP United also crushed Kanoa

2 in the curtain-raiser in the boys U19 division last Friday.

Oliver Lee led MP United with his five goals, while Kaden Church was also on target, hitting three. John Bucayo and Floyd Muna added two each, while John Michael Rojas, Matthew Ong, Ronnel Ocanada, and Tony Kim made one apiece.

MP United notched win No. 2 to share the top spot with Kanoa 1.

## Kanoa 1 5, NMI Boys U15 2

Kanoa 1 got its second victory after edging the NMI Boys U15 National Team in the other match in the division.

Andrew Omelau fired a pair of goals for Kanoa, who drew one each from siblings Jim Kurt and Ian Karl Maniogo and Jacob Montes.

The NMI U15’s two goals were courtesy of Andrew Chung.

“Hard to imagine this will be defined by the end of May, but it could be,” Dr. Ali Khan, an epidemiologist and dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, told Associated Press in an email. “Regardless, numerous sick athletes could not lead to a very interesting games.”

“From what we know from

numerous other mass-gathering events including sporting events, it is very easy to spread diseases worldwide from such events -- from meningitis to Zika,” Khan added. “Besides welcoming athletes and spectators with their tiny microbes, there is and may be ongoing disease in Japan.”

Kazuhiro Tateda, an expert

on infectious diseases and a member of a Japanese government panel, said the virus may not die out quickly.

“Unlike the flu that disappears with warmer weather, the response to the new coronavirus, I think, will have to continue for half a year or a year,” Tateda told Japanese broadcaster NHK on Tuesday.



In this Jan. 24, 2020, file photo, a photographer takes pictures of the illuminated Olympic rings in front of the Rainbow Bridge in the Odaiba district of Tokyo. The tentacles of cancelling the Tokyo Olympics—or postponing or staging it in empty venues—would reach into every corner of the globe, much like the spreading virus that now imperils the opening ceremony on July 24.

## WIN

From Page 24

second en route to the 18-point winning margin in the one-game finale.

The first half ended with Shirley’s ahead by a deuce, 55-57, but that precarious lead was easily overhauled by the Blue Eagle, as Douglas Schmidt, Jaymark De Guzman, and Jack Lizama teamed up in the pivotal third-quarter surge. De Guzman scored 9 points, Schmidt added 8, and Lizama chipped in 5 to hand Blue Eagle an 80-68 advantage.

Shirley’s, after going toe-to-toe with the favored Blue Eagle, fell behind in the third period, as its gunners fired blanks in the penultimate frame. Matt Duenas, who finished the half with 19 points, was held to one field goal in the third canto and no Shirley’s player made more than one basket in that period. John Jugos was the top scorer for Shirley’s in the third canto after knocking in two triples.

Duenas continued to struggle in the fourth quarter, leaving Freddie Pelisamen the tough task of bringing Shirley’s back into title contention. However, Pelisamen’s efforts were no match to Blue Eagle’s balance offense, as the eventual champion still drew baskets from Lizama and De Guzman, while Preston Basa and Ponce Rasa also hit the board for the squad to keep their comfortable lead.

Schmidt led six Blue Eagle players in double figures, as

he finished with 24 points. Lizama added 16, De Guzman logged 14, Bart Demapan and Basa chipped in 12 apiece, and Darwin Barbo recorded 10.

Duenas still paced Shirley’s with his 23 points, while Pelisamen contributed 15. Gerald Flores also had twin digits with 10, but was held to one field goal in the entire second half.

Meanwhile, Eats Easy The Game won the consolation match against Islander Rent A Car last Saturday, 85-79.

Jun Fidelino delivered 29 points, while Michael Torregozo and Prince Factor recorded 18 and 14, respectively. The trio scored all of Eats Easy’s baskets in the fourth quarter.

## Finals

**Blue Eagle 100**—Schmidt 24, Lizama 16, De Guzman 14, Basa 12, Demapan 12, Barbo 10, Rasa 4, Ashburn 3, Libuw 3, Talania 2.

**Shirley’s 82**—Duenas 25, Pelisamen 15, Flores 10, Mendiola 8, Jugos 6, Lisua 5, Diaz 5, Aranda 5, Sablan 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 27-28, 55-57, 80-68, 100-82.

## Third Place

**Eats Easy 85**—Fidelino 29, Torregozo 18, Factor 14, Erdene 4, Arellano 7, Cabaltica 4, Sablan 3, Dayao 2.

**Islander 79**—Mintac 24, Pastano 20, Viray 13, Andrew 10, Rotual 8, Mangali 4, Santos 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 30-20, 44-49, 66-65, 85-79.



Shirley’s Coffee Shop’s Dennis Mendiola, center, splits the defense of Blue Eagle’s Darwin Barbo, left, and Preston Basa during the second half of their title match in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## SAIPAN

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“Based on the serious threat to the health and safety of the residents of the CNMI, as well as potential harm to which the off-island competitors will be exposed, we hereby request that the Marianas Visitors Authority postpone both the 2020 Saipan Marathon and Tagaman Triathlon,” House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) said in a letter to Torres last March 3.

“We understand that there will be serious economic impacts as a result of these postponements, but the consequences of the coronavirus spreading through the Commonwealth will be even more catastrophic and the welfare of the CNMI must always come first,” the letter added.

Saipan Tribune reached out to the speaker to ask comments on the governor’s decision, but he has yet to respond at press time last night.

This year’s Saipan Marathon has drawn more than 700 runners and Saipan Tribune learned that over 100 registered are from South Korea and Japan, which are in the top 10 countries with the most COVID-19 cases recorded.

The CNMI has no COVID-19 case and the governor believes the Commonwealth’s tough screening process of visitors has been effective in preventing the virus from spreading to the islands.

“Since January, we were the first state or territory to put in strict health screening and preventative measures at our ports of entry to prevent tourists who are suspected of having the coronavirus from entering the CNMI. CHCC has been at the airport since January, and the partnership has resulted in fast response actions for suspected cases. So far, these policies have been effective, and the CNMI remains coronavirus-free. We are taking every precautionary measure to properly screen individuals here at home, and our office continues to remain in close communication with the White House and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) on a daily basis,” said Torres.

The governor will have a press conference tomorrow to discuss the steps the CNMI is taking to address the public’s COVID-19 concerns, while a scanner to be used at the airport has been purchased and the Commonwealth Ports Authority is working on

having it air shipped the soonest possible time.

Meanwhile, press secretary Kevin Bautista said that a number of off-island runners have canceled their participation in the Saipan Marathon.

“We have already seen a number of voluntary tourist cancellations, and MVA has noted that the event is also catered to our community because we also have a large number of local residents running. Public health remains a priority for this government, and we will continue to do our due diligence of screening and prevention, while also finding ways to bolster our economy during this unprecedented crisis,” Bautista said.

Despite of some cancelation from off-island participants, MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo said they are still receiving inquiries for this Saturday’s race.

“The MVA board of directors and management have decided to move forward with the Saipan Marathon as we’ve gained an interest over 700 participants both local and visitors. Despite the registration cut off date on March 6, we are still receiving inquiries from interested runners,” she said.





**Nuggets send  
Bucks to 3rd  
straight loss**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**MLB: No plans  
to alter sked  
because of  
virus**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Saipan Marathon still a go



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

**T**he 2020 Saipan Marathon will go ahead as scheduled.

“The CHCC has advised for the event to move forward because we have in place additional health screening for tourists and runners before entering the event. We have every confidence with CHCC and MVA in ensuring the event remains safe,” said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after a meeting yesterday with the Marianas Visitors Authority and other stakeholders in this Saturday’s race.

The governor’s decision to move ahead with Saipan Marathon came despite receiving a letter from the House of Representatives, requesting the postponement of the race along with the Tagaman Triathlon due to the growing concerns over COVID-19.

**See SAIPAN on Page 23**



Local runners train along Beach Road in preparation for the 2020 Saipan Marathon, which will take place this Saturday despite the growing concerns over COVID-19, as the race will also feature off-island participants.

MVA

## 2nd-half surge lifts Blue Eagle to title win



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Blue Eagle clinched the Open Division crown in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League following a 100-82 win over Shirley’s Coffee Shop last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After engaging Shirley’s Coffee Shop in a seesaw battle in the first half, the Blue Eagle glided past its opponent in the

**See WIN on Page 23**

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Blue Eagle’s Brendon Talania’s shot, right, is challenged by Shirley’s Coffee Shop’s Greg Sablan during the first half of their title match in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Lopsided victory for MPU, Matansa

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



MP United Football Club and Matansa

Football Club pounced on their respective opponents in the co-ed U13 division of the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United walloped Kanoa, 11-1, while Matansa shut down Shirley’s, 9-0.

Matansa got a hat trick from Jerome Mettao to take its first win of the season after drawing Kanoa and losing to MP United last month. Nolan Ngewakl

and Javen Camacho added two goals apiece, while Justin Camacho contributed one.

In the MPU-Kanoa tiff, the former had eight play-

ers making it to the board to cruise to victory No. 2 and move up to second place in

**See MATANSA on Page 23**

